

# THE GATEWAY

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## Trek tech coming to a drug store near you

University of Alberta researchers developing cancer detection device fit for consumer use

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW  
News Editor

Tiny chips being developed at the U of A could soon allow patients to test themselves for cancer in the privacy of their homes and yield results in minutes.

A \$6.5 million project spearheaded by oncologist Dr Linda Pilarsky and electrical engineer Dr Chris Backhouse could make the detection of cancers significantly faster and cheaper through the use of microfluidic—or “lab on a chip”—technology.

In a microelectronic chip, micro-scale wires transport electrons in order to send electronic messages. A micrometre is a notch larger than the nanometre, which is one 10 000th of the width of a human hair.

A microfluidic chip uses micro-scale channels to move fluid particles through the chip. Electrical fields are applied to move a cell, a molecule of DNA or any chemicals through the

channels. In this way, the chip performs the manipulations previously done in clinical tests by people in labs.

The goal of the research is to amalgamate many microfluidic chips—each testing for different things—to create what Backhouse calls a “tricorder,” nicknamed after a Star Trek device.

The portable device could be used in many different situations, and could produce results in a tiny fraction of the time required by most tests.

Just as computers have evolved from room-sized devices with less computational power than a digital wristwatch, so too must medical technology, said Backhouse.

“We’ve got huge [medical] instruments that do our tasks. And because they’re huge, they use large quantities of stuff. And the stuff is about a million dollars a gram—it makes gold look dirt-cheap.”

“We’ve got huge [medical] instruments that do our tasks. And because they’re huge, they use large quantities of stuff. And the stuff is about a million dollars a gram—it makes gold look dirt-cheap.”

PLEASE SEE TRICORDER • PAGE 4



"I'M A DOCTOR, NOT A BRICKLAYER" Dr Backhouse shows off his new chip.

## Cohen night 'coming back to you'

JAMES STORRIE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

This weekend, Edmontonians will have the chance to experience a night of world-class entertainment and culture that also happens to be as Canadian as maple syrup-drenched bacon.

The city's annual Leonard Cohen Night, an event celebrating the life and works of the famous Canadian poet and songwriter, comes to the Westin Hotel Ballroom this Saturday evening.

This year's event has particular relevance, as it coincides with the 40th anniversary of Cohen's 1966 visit to the city.

Organizers hope this fact will help catch international attention on par with the sort of fuss made over the annual celebrations for Scotland's favourite poet, Robbie Burns.

“The whole idea for Leonard Cohen Night stemmed from a similar event celebrating Scottish poet Robbie Burns,” explains Dr Kim Solez, the event's organizer.

PLEASE SEE COHEN • PAGE 23



THE STREAK Alberta opened its year in style Tuesday. The story's on page 19.

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15 The price of creating the daily comics page is becoming too much for many newspapers to bear... Next step for your morning paper? Read about it in the Features section.

## From the archives

WWW.GATEWAY.ULBERTA.CA — Students' Union members were nearly 1000 strong last November of '94. The two-day-knife-wielding dance was held at the Convention Centre but peace and love weren't the order of the evening. That night, four ambulances were called to attend to 13 individuals. Injuries included one broken foot and two suspected cases of alcohol poisoning. There were no suggestions as to how the injuries were caused, but the Students' Union president (exterior) explained that there were more students than the previous year. A representative of Safewalk, who attended the dance thought otherwise: "I think it went really well. Everyone there seemed to be having a good time."

1994



18 It's been over eleven months since the Golden Bears football team played at home, but Saturday they finally make a glorious return to Foothie Field. The full scoop is in Sports.

# THE GATEWAY

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## colophon

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# Program determines caribou at risk

NICOLE TOMLINSON  
 News Writer

A U of A PhD student has developed a computer program to determine the impact human activity is having on Alberta's caribou population.

The model, REMUS, created by Peter Weclaw, takes information about both natural and human factors in a given area with a caribou population and outputs information that predicts the impact these elements will have on the species for that specific area.

"The model combines all of these factors in a dynamic way so that all of the elements respond to each other," Weclaw explained.

To test his model, Weclaw chose a region in northern Alberta that had a relatively heavy amount of industrial development.

"We found that caribou were declining pretty rapidly, and actually, they would be gone from the system in about 3 years," he said.

When he ran his model for the same region without inputting any human-based factors, the outcome was significantly different: caribou numbers were seven times higher than the scenario that considered human influences. The details of the study and results are published in the 15 September edition of *Ecological*

## Modelling

Many of the populations of woodland caribou in the northern boreal forest of Alberta have been negatively impacted by human factors such as industrial oil development, hunting and poaching.

**"I think it would be really cool if we could show that we could still develop industry here and keep our caribou. That would be something very unusual. I think that we can do that and this model can be a helpful tool in this kind of assessment."**

PETER WECLAW,  
 U OF A PHD STUDENT

The 1987 Alberta Wildlife Act classified them as a threatened species, and the provincial government implemented conservation strategies in 1994.

Today, companies planning to

explore or develop in the region must first prove that their projects will have minimal impact on the caribou.

Weclaw emphasized that the state of the caribou population is important to consider when assessing the overall condition of the northern Alberta boreal ecosystem.

"Woodland caribou is a very good indicator species. They are very significant as far as ecological interactions, because they live in the old growth forest and feed on lichens," he said.

"If there is something going wrong with caribou populations, it indicates that maybe there are some problems in the function of the boreal ecosystem. If the caribou are gone, most likely, their habitat is gone, most likely."

REMUS can be useful in predicting the impact that a variety of human developments and interactions will have on the woodland caribou.

"REMUS is designed in the way that you can use your data for a specific area that you are interested in, input this data into the model, run the model and see what the output is," he said.

"In this sense, REMUS is very flexible and can be used for different locations."

Although he admits that no computer-modelling program is perfect,

Weclaw asserts that REMUS could provide a less disruptive and more economical alternative for reducing the impact future industrial developments might have on the woodland caribou.

"I think simulation models like this are a great tool," he said.

"It's much less expensive to design a model and run simulations than to do huge experiments in the field."

Weclaw also believes that REMUS could play an important role in future efforts to conserve the woodland caribou.

"I think it would be really cool if we could show that we could still develop industry here and keep our caribou," he said.

"That would be something very unusual. I think that we can do and that this model can be a helpful tool in this kind of assessment."

Despite evidence that woodland caribou are declining in some regions of the northern Alberta boreal forest due to heavy industrial development, Weclaw remains optimistic.

"The human population is growing," he said.

"Industrial development is a natural consequence. I think the biggest challenge is to do it in a way that still saves the caribou and their natural environment. I still have some hope that it is possible."

## STREETERS

It's official: there will be no NHL hockey this season.

How do you feel about the NHL lockout?



Kyle Wuggard  
 Engineering I



Eric Ng  
 Sociology V



Ashley  
 Scarborough  
 Science IV



Jennifer Smith  
 Immunology III

It's pretty stupid—I don't know why they couldn't come up with an agreement. There's no way Calgary's going to be able to keep Iglnia and going to get their salary caps. Obviously, you're going to want to get paid when you're doing your job—you're going to want to get paid as much as possible. They need a salary cap.

Unfortunate. I generally enjoy watching hockey. But I really have very little sympathy for both sides. I just think it's kind of a ridiculous thing to be having concerns over.

I think that the walkout would be silly just because I know a lot of people who enjoy watching hockey, so if there's no hockey I know they'll be complaining. It's just a social thing, and I know it'll be taking away a lot from sport.

I think that it's absolutely silly, especially considering these people are making a million dollars, if not more, and they can't even consider a salary cap as a possibility. And really, I just think that they're being greedy and demanding way too much. The best paid professor at this University would never be making even a quarter of the money these hockey players make—and I'm sorry, it is just a job.

Compiled and photographed by Caitlin Crawshaw and Ross Moroz

all aboard the party train

8101 - 103 St.  
 Whyte Ave

# SU bars welcome students back with renovations, menus

JARED BACHYNSKI  
News Writer

Following extensive changes over the summer, the Powerplant is having a grand re-opening, showcasing a fresh look and a new menu.

The event, scheduled for Friday, 17 September, will feature a new Friday-night DJ geared towards improving the reputation of the Powerplant and regaining business from students who do not currently frequent the Students' Union-owned bar.

"The 'Plant is now a very versatile place," said Duncan Taylor, SU vice-president (student life).

"It's not just a bar, but a great place for people to go to, especially for food."

Over the summer, Taylor was involved in a special SU committee dedicated to revitalizing the three SU-run bars: RATT, Dewey's Lounge, and the Powerplant.

"People are going to know what they are getting when they show up at an SU-run establishment this year," said Taylor.

"RATT has been nailed down as the sports bar; Dewey's has been design-

nated the lounge, and the Powerplant has got the restaurant/club type of deal, especially on the weekends."

Alvin Law, SU vice-president (operations & finance), hopes the refocusing of each bar's priorities will appeal to certain groups of students.

Dewey's, for example, has purchased a \$13,000 coffee machine to appeal to people who desire to hang out and read a book or chat with friends.

"The 'Plant, on the other hand, is more energetic, and on Thursdays and Fridays, it's straight into the dance club, party-it-up type of venue," Law said.

"Plus, after the renovations, people who might not have been comfortable dancing on the stage can now dance on the main floor."

"We also expanded the menu at the 'Plant," explained Taylor.

"It no longer looks like a crappy piece of paper shoved into plastic wrap.

Law feels that the new menu at the Powerplant is a big step forward.

Unable to meet expectations of normal restaurants in the past in terms of service and food quality, the new menu at the "Plant" boasts healthier

options and a 15-minute express menu.

When setting prices for the Powerplant's new menu, the SU committee looked at the menus and pricing of the competition from nearby bars and Whyte Avenue.

"We tried to match the lowest prices between Scholars and bars on Whyte. We don't want to take students for granted—we appreciate them and want to give them the best deal possible," said Taylor.

Taylor maintained, however, that liquor prices would never be extremely low, because feeding students massive amounts of alcohol would work against the SU's mandate to remain a responsible member of the University community.

However, Law explained that even without the cheap alcohol, the renovations and programming changes put in by the SU would highlight a new, youthful image for the Powerplant.

"In the past, our focus was on the incoming student, and we're trying to recapture that. We're trying to invite the students back into the Powerplant," said Law.



**LOOK, PRETTY LIGHTS** That's not all that's new at the 'Plant'. The SU hopes the renovations will bring back the crowds.

## "Coffee Break" raises money for Alzheimer's

MARY HULBERT  
News Writer

Next week, your morning coffee will do more than just wake you up. For the second year running, the Students' Union is holding an event called "Coffee Break" in support of Alzheimer research.

Coffee Break is a national fundraising initiative of the Alzheimer Society of Canada, and is held each year on World Alzheimer's Day, 21 September. The Society will be represented in the Students' Union Building this fall, where students will be encouraged to donate money for Alzheimer's research in exchange for a free fair trade coffee.

"It's a great way for students to show that they care about what is happening in their community, and for them to act on that," said SU community liaison officer Ariana Barer.

Alzheimer's is a progressive, degenerative disease of the brain, commonly seen in people over 65 years of age.

Warning signs of the illness include changes in mental abilities, moods and emotions, behaviours and physical abilities. Specific symptoms include confusion, poor judgement, and diffi-

culty learning new things.

There are no medications or treatments to stop the progression of the disease once it has begun. The Canadian Alzheimer Association estimates that 238,000 Canadians over 65 currently have Alzheimer's disease, and that if a cure is not found, over 509,000 Canadians will be diagnosed by 2031.

**"Most people think that if you're not a healthcare professional, you can't do anything. But this [Coffee Break] is a great way to help."**

**MARY MAHONY,  
ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**

Although most students at the U of A are too young to have been affected by the disease directly, one in four will have a relative who is affected, such as a grandmother or grandfather.

The concept for the fundraiser originated in Ireland, where tea breaks

were held to raise funds for Alzheimer research. The Canadian Alzheimer Society learned of this event and decided to adapt the idea for their own organization. Because Canadians drink more coffee than tea, coffee was chosen for their fundraising endeavour, said Mary Mahony of the Alzheimer Society of Alberta.

The fundraiser has been held every year since 1996 across the country. Last year, almost 9000 Coffee Break events took place across Canada in September, raising more than \$1 million.

Other postsecondary institutions in the province are also participating in this fundraising effort, including Keyano College and the University of Calgary.

"Most people think that if you're not a healthcare professional, you can't do anything. But this [Coffee Break] is a great way to help," Mahony said.

According to Mahony, the society hopes the fundraiser will expand to other colleges and universities across Canada.

"The university population is one that can make a significant difference—and which likes to drink a lot of coffee."

## Campus Nightlife ALL NIGHTS KICK OFF THIS WEEK

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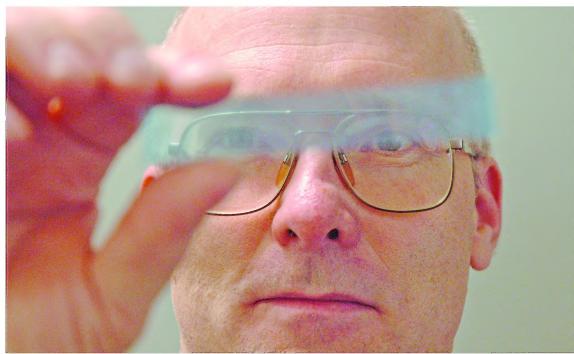
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WHICH WAY TO THE HOLODECK? Backhouse and Pilarsky have some work to do before finishing the "tricorder."



JAMES LEUNG

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EDMONTON UNIVERSITY

# Democrats troll Canadian campuses for American voters

STEPHEN HUI  
National Bureau Chief

TORONTO (CUP)—Mindful of the close results of the last United States presidential election, the Democratic party is hoping to sign up as many students to vote as possible—at Canadian universities.

From coast to coast, volunteers are doing their best to spread the word that Americans studying in Canada are eligible to vote in the 2 November presidential election.

"We're targeting students because they make up a significant portion of thoughtful voters who we believe will vote Democratic," said Joe Green, chair of Democrats Abroad Canada, the party's Canadian wing.

"We're also targeting them because we think that it's part of a great exercise to get young people involved in a political process."

With voter registration deadlines fast approaching, volunteers are hitting campuses across the country during the opening weeks of the school year. Democrats Abroad have also taken out ads in 15 university student newspapers.

At the University of Toronto, political science student Carly Erickson is starting up a Democrats Abroad club. Erickson, along with women's studies student Sara Gottlieb, is drawing attention to the club and handing out pamphlets to inform American students of their right to vote.

Erickson and Gottlieb are both dual citizens who have spent much of their

lives in Canada. This November will mark the first time either have voted in a US election.

"Students in the US have a hard enough time voting and keeping track of absentee ballots and registering to vote in a different state," Erickson said.

**"We're targeting students because they make up a significant portion of thoughtful voters who we believe will vote Democratic."**

JOE GREEN,  
CHAIR,  
DEMOCRATS ABROAD CANADA

"The American students who are going to school here have a really difficult time trying to sort through the paperwork and red tape."

To make it easier for their fellow Americans to sign up to vote, Erickson and Gottlieb are pointing them to [www.overseasvote2004.com](http://www.overseasvote2004.com).

The website, paid for by the Democratic National Committee, allows any absentee voter to enter the address of their last US residence—or, in the case of overseas Americans who have never lived in the States, their parents'—and other personal details with ease. The result is a completed voter registration form, which after being printed and signed may be mailed or faxed to the appropriate

election officials.

The US consulate in Vancouver is also holding voter registration drives at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University in Burnaby.

Earlier this year, the consulate handed out over 700 registration forms at the two universities, and it's going back with more, said Bradford Johnson, chief of the consular section.

Meanwhile, Republicans Abroad Canada doesn't have any particular plans to help American students register to vote, according to vice-chair Kelli Wright. She explains that that's because the group isn't as well funded or established as its Democratic counterpart, and it's more efficient to respond to requests for information.

"Students, if anything, are as Internet savvy or more Internet savvy than anybody," Wright said.

"So, they typically are able to find our website and download the materials."

As well, there are likely more Democrats than Republicans at Canadian universities, she added.

While it's not known how many Americans are studying in Canada, the 2001 Canadian census found about 238 000 Americans living in the country. But that number doesn't include dual citizens and Americans temporarily residing north of the border.

Democrats hope to find as many American students as possible in Canada. The initiative will help to secure future voters and directly affect the upcoming election.

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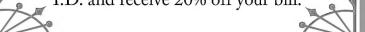
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# Taylor questions feasibility of dry university campuses

ALCOHOL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Taylor opposes the idea of dry campuses because he sees universities as a place not limited to academic learning and work but also as a place to develop as people, learning life skills inside and outside the classroom.

Safe alcohol consumption, he argued, is one of those skills. In addition, Taylor questioned the feasibility of achieving such campuses with drinking ages set as they are in Canada.

"The problem is the drinking age in the States is 21 whereas in Alberta it's 18. We've seen prohibition before. It's been done in the US and in Canada and it just drives the drinking underground," said Taylor.

Fran Włodzcyk, executive director of the Student Life Education Company, which conducted the research, was of a similar mindset.

"As long as alcohol is a legal beverage, what better place for students to learn to drink responsibly than on campus?" asked Włodzcyk.

"The bars are highly regulated more so than on the street, the residence-life people are trained with a high level of understanding that you can't get in the community, and counselling services are very accessible," she said.

She also reinforced that it was important to empower students to make responsible choices, as universities are a place for students to learn about independence as well as academics.

**"We've seen prohibition before. It's been done in the US and in Canada and it just drives the drinking underground."**

DUNCAN TAYLOR,  
SU VP (STUDENT LIFE)

Włodzcyk pointed out alcohol is part of Canadian society. Allowing

drinking on campus is how you treat students like the adults they are. But regardless of the arguments in support of alcohol on campus, Elmsley is determined to work toward a dry solution.

"It is a change of culture. Twenty years ago, people who smoked had the right to smoke where they wanted. Now we change the culture so we are adjusting the limits of these people's rights," said Elmsley.

"There are a number of campuses in the United States doing it. It is not strange in Canada to do the same. People only have to be convinced that this is right and then it can work."



LEANNIE FONG  
STUDENTS ARE SMART? Taylor thinks so. He defends drinking on campus.

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## Mount Allison paper avoids shutdown

NADYA BELL  
Atlantic Bureau Chief

ST. JOHN'S (CUP)—Libel insurance has saved a New Brunswick student newspaper, which did not publish its second scheduled issue because of its legally dangerous position.

After a tense search, an insurance broker has stepped forward to provide the Argosy at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick with \$1 million in libel coverage, allowing the paper to resume publishing after a one-month hiatus.

"I'm pretty relieved," said James Carruthers, editor-in-chief of the Argosy.

"I get to print next week, so I'm happy, and the premiums will be less than I expected."

The University processes the Argosy's main source of income, a student media fee. Because of this relationship, Carruthers said they felt obliged to have the type of insurance the University suggested, although libel coverage is not standard for student papers.

**"I get to print next week, so I'm happy, and the premiums will be less than I expected."**

JAMES CARRUTHERS,  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE ARGOSY

ing the paper in hopes of attracting an insurer, but internal problems caused trouble, said Carruthers.

"No one wanted to insure us because we have such a small budget, no permanent staff members—and generally, our constitution was a bit of a mess," he said.

"What we've done now is hired an office manager, we revamped our entire constitution, we changed the entire look of our newspaper. We're trying to make our newspaper more approachable and accessible to students."

Even with these changes, by September the Argosy's requests for coverage had been turned down by over 20 different insurance agencies.

On the advice of the University, the Argosy published a frosty issue on 27 August so staff could show their new work to insurers. But as they had not heard any positive calls the first week in September, the Argosy board of directors decided to halt publishing.

Before the paper received a positive call from the Toronto-based company recommended by the administration, Argosy staff were torn over whether or not to continue publishing without insurance against the University administration's wishes.

However, now that the insurance has been secured, minds have been put at ease and the Argosy will be able to continue on schedule.

The University stopped providing insurance coverage to all of its student groups last January, because the Canadian University Reciprocal Insurance Exchange stopped offering the service to the few universities using it.

When this coverage ceased, the University administration asked all student groups on campus to purchase liability insurance, as well as coverage appropriate to their group. The Argosy was asked to get \$1.2 million in libel coverage before this September.

When the Argosy was unable to publish last week, the newspaper's

"The vast majority of student papers, and all papers who are the size of the Argosy, are not protected by liability insurance," said Chris Dunn, president of Canadian University Press, a national student press organization composed of 65 student newspapers.

Carruthers also thought it was unusual that the University requested they obtain libel insurance, as their paper has never had a problem with libel.

The staff spent the summer improv-

## Minority gov't good for postsecondary: CASA, CFS

MEGANTHOMAS  
Atlantic Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP)—Student groups are optimistic the first federal minority government in 24 years will be good for postsecondary education.

"We're definitely excited about the opportunity that we think it will provide," said James Kusie, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, a student lobby group.

"All parties will have more of a say, and every party agrees that postsecondary education is a priority."

The optimism stems from the need for a minority government to find common ground with opposition parties on important issues to survive.

"It will shake up not just the House, but all the committees," said George Soule, national chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, another student lobby group.

Soule hopes the shake-up will allow Prime Minister Paul Martin to move forward with initiatives like establishing dedicated transfer payments to the

provinces for postsecondary education, something Martin discussed publicly during the election campaign.

"The fact that he brought that up and that the other parties were pretty solid on education as well shows that he is going to have to do something," Soule said.

With the Bloc Québécois and New Democratic Party traditionally supportive of postsecondary education, the Liberals could build consensus and make policy in this area, said Michael Beliefs, a professor at the University of Ottawa who specializes in Canadian politics.

"The Liberals will go legislation by legislation, looking for the votes where they know they can get them," Beliefs said.

But Beliefs cautioned major education policy changes from this government are unlikely.

Instead, federal money will likely be funnelled into the postsecondary system through specific initiatives, such as Canada Research Chairs and centres of excellence at universities, Beliefs added.

"I don't see any drastic change in

the federal government's role in postsecondary education."

Any changes will also likely be slow in coming, since minority governments traditionally take twice as long as majorities to pass legislation.

"There is a lot more negotiation that has to go on," Beliefs said.

How much federal money is available, and whether it will go to social programs or to paying down the country's debt depends on the strength of the Canadian economy and the state of interest rates, Beliefs explained.

"As long as interest rates stay so low, there is really no rush to panic about the debt," he said.

The last minority government existed from 1979 to 1980, was headed by Joe Clark, and fell after just nine months when support for a proposed gas tax waned.

But the current government is not facing an issue that would unite all three opposition parties strongly enough to bring down the Liberal minority, Beliefs said.

Instead, Canadians will likely see another quick election, possibly as early as next year.



CHALLENGES AHEAD The Liberal minority government will have to work hard if they hope to keep this as their home.

# OPINION

opinion@gatewayualberta.ca • thursday, 16 september, 2004

## Drunk drivers aren't just playing roulette with their own lives

I HAVE BEEN IN A moving vehicle with impaired drivers—once in the rather ridiculous days of my (early) youth, and a few times when someone I was close to did not tell me just how much she'd been drinking—and consider myself blessed to be alive to write this editorial.

When my stoned young friend nearly sideswiped another car, I decided I could never accept a ride with him again (some car pot makes you a better driver—I disagree). In the case of the second driver, I was unable to detect her drunkenness until she was gripping the wheel and struggling to remember the way back to her house only 15 blocks away—a route she'd driven a thousand times.

In both cases, the impaired drivers risked their own lives, my life and the lives of countless, nameless folk who venture out every night never thinking that someone else is playing Russian Roulette with their lives.

After reading about a Calgary man who received only four months in jail for his eighth drunk-driving arrest, I shook my head. I realized that he is probably not terribly different from the people I know who gamble on the road, but he is, nevertheless, unforgivable.

In a sense, the Calgary man, drunk and stoned behind the wheel, had a pistol pressed against his temple and a rifle before him. Maybe he had only one bullet in either weapon, and that night his guns went "click" without tire squeals and screams. But the fact that he even dared to try is intolerable.

Once should be it, in my humble opinion. Because as far as I can tell, drinking and driving isn't really a "mistake" like forgetting to put the safety on your gun. There's a decision made to go out drinking, in most cases, and to bring the car along. There's a decision to start drinking, again in most cases. There's an illusion of invincibility—the "nothing-can-ever-happen-to-me" disease. And in the case of alcoholism, though the first drink may not seem like a "choice" as it is for others, the decision to bring the car makes the alcoholic just as responsible.

With all of the public education about drunk driving, I continue to be amazed at people like the Calgary man, and at friends of mine who've rationalized that they drive better when stoned. Or those who admit the idiocy of drunk driving but tell me they've done it anyway, though not proud of it.

Ultimately, if there is one bullet in the gun, there's no safe way to aim it at your head. And when that bullet could ricochet and nail a stranger between the eyes, why not put the gun down altogether? It doesn't matter that no one's dead yet when you're still holding the gun in your hot little hand.

As for people who offend and re-offend, their keys should be taken for years at a time, if not indefinitely—there are no genuine "mistakes" when it comes to drunk driving.

CAITLIN CR-AWSHAW  
News Editor

## Mayor Smith is an object at rest

Unless you've nailed all your doors and windows shut, you're not doubt aware of the impending civic election next month. And you're likely painfully aware of incumbent Mayor Bill Smith's campaign slogan: "Keep the momentum going."

I have but one simple question, O Great Cheerleader of the City of Champions: what is this momentum of which you speak? Oh, you mean the mediocrities of the last ten years? Thanks, but no thanks.

The fact is that Bill Smith has been in office for far too long and in that time, our roads have all but eroded, property taxes have gone up, Edmonton has nearly sprawled all the way to Leduc.

The sad truth is that there was never any momentum in the mayor's office: just an object at rest.

ADAM ROZENHART  
Editor-in-Chief



## LETTERS

### Steve Smith: no problem with Campus Rec

In his column of 14 September ("Do Hugh Hoyles proud; get involved with Campus Rec") Graham Lettner stated that recently retired Campus Recreation Director Hugh Hoyles "left a legacy that even an infinite number of legacy-smashing referenda couldn't do away with." While I recognize that this was merely a throw-away joke to amuse the eight people on campus who understand the reference, I must take issue with the insinuation that I want to do away with the institution that would want to do away with it.

My laughably unsuccessful effort at abolishing the Students' Union's Golden Bear and Panda Legacy Fund last year was inspired in large part by my resentment of the fact that the majority of the Athletics and Recreation fee assesses to every student goes to support varsity athletics, rather than towards the fine and widely popular facilities and programs offered by Campus Recreation. If I had objected to Campus Recreation, I would have also attempted to eliminate the Students' Union's Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund, which astute observers will note that I did not do.

In conclusion, Mr Lettner's insinuation to the contrary, I am a great admirer of Campus Recreation in general and the dearly-departed Mr Hoyles in particular.

STEVE SMITH  
Business Councillor

### Joel Fairbrother has a problem with Adam Gaumont

This is in response to the article in the 14 September Gateway by Adam Gaumont ("Ranchers don't deserve government bailout"). Mr Gaumont contends that the Alberta ranchers are in a private enterprise

situation, where the border closure is simply one of the harsh realities of the market system. He further argues that because ranchers are like any other businessmen, the consequences of the ranchers losing the American market should be projected on the ranchers themselves and the government should reconsider aiding the ranchers.

Mr Gaumont is oversimplifying this issue. First of all, ranchers are not like any other businessmen because exports that are protected under international treaty (NAFTA) were abruptly halted under the guise of concern for BSE. This is not only a private concern for the ranchers, but a national one because it involves an international treaty, and the federal government is obligated constitutionally in matters of international trade.

Further than this, Mr Gaumont admits that this whole "beef ban" could be due to the increased tensions between Canada and the US, and efforts to stimulate the agricultural industry in the United States. If this is true, then the United States is keeping the border closed to stimulate its own agriculture industry at the peril of the Canadian agriculture industry. This could easily be interpreted as a subsidy on behalf of the Americans, because their market was previously importing beef. Because this creates a sales void on the Canadian end, the government should be obligated to do for Canadian ranchers what has already been done for American ones.

Lastly, it must be noted that it is not as if all the ranchers broke even or had reduced profits; many of them lost money. It could be argued that Canada's first obligation was to fight hard with the United States on threat of pulling out of NAFTA, but the fighting was maybe not satisfactory. Whatever the case, if the federal government has decided to avoid the vicious pursuit of justice with the US, they at least owe the farmers the losses incurred by this decision.

JOEL FAIRBROTHER  
Political Science III

### Arthur Lee also has a problem, but this one is about Orientation

I realized things about Orientation this year that made me sick. Out of the 6000 new students that supposedly took part in this year's Orientation, roughly 1000 made it to the bitter and terrible end: the President's Address.

At first, I thought that these 500 people were ditzers, but as the President's Address progressed, I realized that they were the smart ones who weren't enduring an evening of hell. After all, it's not like they missed much, as Jordan Blatz, our unsung SU President, told everyone heart-warming cliché stories about university that probably should have brought a tear to my eye. But felt more like it.

Good thing all the first-years know exactly what their president is doing for them this year. Furthermore, the evening might have gone a little faster if the Orientation leaders and other volunteers would have shut their faces, stopped ranting and let the speaker talk for more than 30 seconds.

The Orientation committee should be wondering why over half the students are dropping out after the first day of an event that costs roughly \$3000.00.

ARTHUR LEE  
Business III

### Yet another problem, this time with LSD

In response to your cover story regarding LSD ("LSD feels free software to students," 14 September), I have a couple comments about switching to open source.

I understand that open-source software is free and this makes it quite desirable, but that's only a small part of what open source actually is. It goes much further than just not having to pay for the program.

Open Source is geared towards the computer user who is willing

to learn new things. It's a source of constant learning that can be quite rewarding if you actually take the time to figure it out. But if you don't know what to do when something doesn't work, and you don't want to learn how to use this new software, don't go and download it.

I'm serious here. You don't care, don't use it.

It's irresponsible to just assume that everyone can move to open-source software without problems and difficulties. Are the LSD volunteers going to be making house calls when I can't find the right RPMs to make XMMS run MP3's? What about explaining, which firebox I should download for my XP machine? Even better, will you come to my house and show me how to mount my Firewire-connected iPod through a (live on CD running) knoppix without reformatting the entire thing and losing 20 gigabytes of music?

Or are you just going to tell me to hit the forum boards and figure it out on my own?

There's more to open-source software than just installing it. Who's going to support the software after you install it?

On that note, I have a question about creating a new dual boot Linux (Knoppix 3.4 or 3.6)/Windows XP computer with my laptop. Want to help me set it up and install everything?

JOEL DIFEO  
Science IV

*Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gatewayualberta.ca*

*The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.*

*Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words! Not 400, not 700—350. These aren't essays, people. Learn how to be concise. Letters must also include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.*



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GRAHAM  
LETTNER

dent to faculty ratio.

Or aim your sights at Guelph University. Their newly revamped Student Life Centre offers undergrads counseling by residence and academic advisors as well as faculty. And if you ever pay a visit, consider stopping into President Alastair Sumner's first-year lectures to see the numero uno administrator rubbing shoulders with the student population.

Just so we don't get away from ourselves, let's consider our alma mater. The U of A now has 30,000 students and counting. At 23:1, the student to faculty ratio looks more like the odds on a crippled racehorse. When was the last time you saw Rod lecturing in V-Wing, or for that matter saw him at all?

As well, Alberta is far and away a common school, weakening the tight-knit feeling of campus camaraderie and making room for ugly things like confounding bus schedules and extortionate parking fees. Tellingly, the U of A did not compete in the Maclean's Undergraduate or Comprehensive categories, but instead under the Medical/Doctoral heading where it placed a mediocre sixth.

Instead of focusing on undergraduate education, the University of Alberta desires to refurbish itself as one of the great research centres of Canada. This is a worthy ambition; Canada needs more world-class Research and Development institutions. And indeed, the University has made great strides in securing flourishing researchers, constructing potent laboratories, and luring government funding to its

small corner of Edmonton.

However, if you ask the average people-watcher at her perch in the HUB pedway, these stunning achievements for the University administration give her as much satisfaction as seeing wannabe gansta rappers retrofit their Ford Windstars with chrome spinners. Tuition is steadily rising. Her poli-sci prof has a one-question limit during office hours and still turns students away. The rent at her Garneau walk-up just shot up. She just wants her degree and then she's outta here to start working to pay off her student loans.

The University of Alberta has decided that its best interest lies in pursuing remarkable graduate and government-funded research programs. That's fine for them, but as undergraduates it shouldn't be fine for us. Students didn't arrive on campus to be a pesky sideshow to the graduate-performed vaudeville.

So, when your younger sister asks where to spend her freshman year, point her west to Victoria, or to that eastern Hinterland where Acadia and Mount Allison reside. But, for a moment, consider not trying to pass the U of A off as the destination of choice for those only recently allowed to legally imbibe.

As for yourself, take a minute to say hi to Rod, Carl and the rest of the University brass. They might wish you were a 27-year-old egghead with a penchant for protein folding, but seeing as your tuition money will soon be in their bank account, they at least owe you a hug.

# Undergrads don't seem to fit in the administration's plans



It's not so much that the University of Alberta isn't a great school—it is. But I just can't shake the feeling that President Fraser would prefer it if I wasn't here.

Stepping into my third year, I finally get it that here at the U of A, undergraduate education isn't very high on the totem pole of priorities. Every time another medical research building is readied for construction, every time new engineering buildings are designed with a 9:1 ratio of office-to-lecture hall space, I rue my decision to get my Bachelor's degree from Alberta's premiere institute.

Perhaps it's shocking to many of us, but all universities are not made equal. There is an entire range of breeds, makes and models. And some are markedly better at undergraduate teaching than others.

Take, for example, St Francis Xavier in the secluded Nova Scotian town of Antigonish. Winner of the Primarily Undergraduate category in Maclean's annual rankings of Universities two years running, the rustic university has a cozy population of 4200, the party-school requisite of being in the middle of nowhere, and on-campus residences for 40 per cent of full-time students. Then think of their 16:1 stu-



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# Thank God we live in Alberta, not Soviet Russia



ROSS MOROZ

For a variety of reasons—some ethnic, some aesthetic—I have a somewhat unhealthy interest in the former Soviet Union. This fascination comes in handily not only as a mediocre undergraduate history student, but also as a citizen of the great province of Alberta; virtually all of the Alberta government's policies—regarding everything from automobile insurance to the delivery of health services—are dictated by an ideological opposition to socialism as an ideal.

And I, for one, will always support this facet of the government's platform. Because, as any student of Soviet history can attest, Albertans would be subjected to unimaginable horrors if we were living under a socialist regime.

For instance, one of the worst aspects of the Soviet system was the lack of real democracy. Elections were held in the former Soviet Union, but opposition parties were largely restricted and the outcome was largely pre-determined, making them nothing more than drawn-out coronations for the governing party.

Contrast this to present-day Alberta, where there exists a multitude of powerful, well-organized political parties, all of which have an equal and legitimate chance of forming a government. In Alberta, the elections themselves are conducted fairly, which is entirely unlike the former Eastern Bloc, where the governing party would even go as far as to offer pre-election goodies to citizens to ensure positive election results. To be fair, the Communist Party was always fairly surreptitious with this unabashed bribery; they were never brash enough to, say, pay off citizens with a "reward" right before an election, to use a purely hypothetical example. But let's not give the Reds too much credit; had they thought of such a dastardly deception they would have certainly implemented it.

Soviet politicians were also notorious for favouring certain regions of their empire over less politically expedient ones. Even in the poorest economic times, the Politburo always looked after pro-Communist areas like Moscow, while politically uncooperative areas were exploited for their resources but otherwise punished for their anti-communist sentiment. In Alberta, though, all areas of the province are treated equally. Our government would never dream of unfairly allocating resources to, say, Calgary over Edmonton just because Edmontonians tend not to support the governing party as fervently. If Ralph Klein ever dared to, oh, I don't know, close schools in Edmonton while building new ones in Calgary, or, say, eliminate ridings in Edmonton while adding more to Calgary, the public outcry would undoubtedly bring down the government.

But it doesn't end with crooked pol-

iticians. Towards the end of the USSR, massive shortages struck the country, forcing the price of commodities like petroleum so high that many Soviet citizens could scarcely afford to heat their homes. It goes without saying that the Alberta government would never allow such misfortune to befall our fair province.

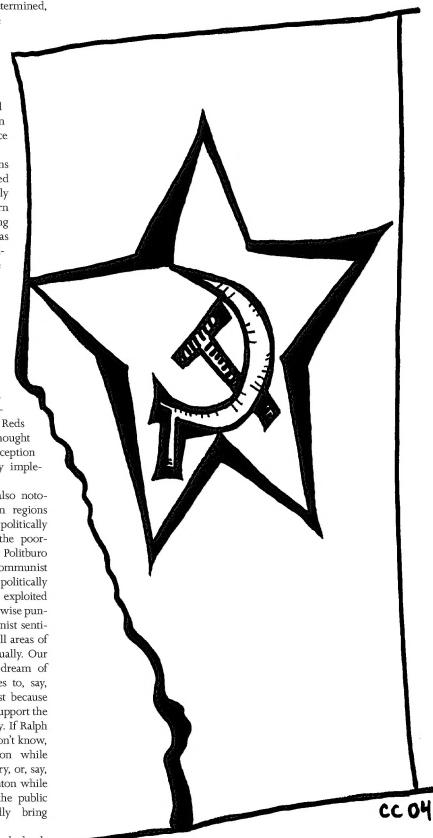
The invisible hand of the free market will always protect Albertans from—to use an entirely absurd example—seizing their heating costs more than double over the course of a year, for instance. That kind of impossible hypothetical situation could only come about as a result of ill-advised faith in the socialist system, which is why I am proud that the Alberta government will never let this province succumb to the Red menace.

While studying Soviet history, I am always puzzled by the general complacency of the oppressed subjects of the

Communist system.

It seems so strange to me that a population can be so completely disrespected and abused without ever rising up against their sadistic overlords. I remain confident that, unlike the vodka-swilling, borscht-sipping lemmings on the dreary side of the Iron Curtain, Albertans would never allow themselves to be ignored, patronized, lied to, manipulated and bribed by their ostensibly democratic government. If Ralph Klein's Conservatives ever behaved in such a reprehensible manner, I remain entirely confident that Albertans would toss them right out of office at the earliest opportunity.

Fortunately, though, that kind of grassroots political dissent will never be necessary here in Wild Rose Country, because we clearly don't live in some dictatorial, corrupt, backwards Communist state.



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## Whatever happened to self-respect?



KRISTINE  
OWRAM

No one has any self-respect anymore, and you kids are the worst of them all, walking around in your ripped clothes with your lack of manners and your rock music.

Now, I'm not proposing a return to the over-the-top standards of conduct of Victorian England or anything like that. I enjoy certain freedoms that these modern times have to offer, such as "being able to vote" and "not being married with kids already."

But if only there was some way we could combine the civil liberties of today with the refinement of an earlier, classier decade, like the 1930s (minus that whole Depression thing). Just think: men wouldn't leave their homes without a tie, jacket, and hat, and women would always be dressed in top-of-the-line couture. Plus, I would finally be able to fulfill my fantasy of ripping my articles out of a typewriter and screaming "COPY!" until someone comes to take them to press.

Seriously though, our generation seems completely unable to understand the concept of civility. Why else would we find it funny when someone makes a big show about how they just farted? (For the record, it's not funny. Like, at all.) And why else would people show up to school in sweatpants, or, worse, their pyjamas? I have always associated self-respect with a certain way of carrying oneself that does not involve fart jokes or

dressing like a slob. Would you hold down a potential employer and fart at him? Okay, would you go to a wedding in your sweatpants?

I know what you're thinking right now, because I've heard it all before: "But I'm a hard-working student! Why should I have to dress up just to go to school?" "It's more comfortable to write my exams in my pyjamas." "If you're advocating I dress up for school, I might as well go all the way and wear a suit, which is clearly totally unreasonable for some reason."

Well, you know, it's not. I'm not advocating showing up to class every day in a suit or a skirt, although I certainly wouldn't complain if you wanted to. I'm simply asking that people realize that being at school is the same as being in public, and you should therefore dress and act accordingly.

And, contrary to popular belief, you don't have to be rich to dress well.

Oftentimes, a full

sweatshirt costs more

than a nice pair of

jeans and a button-down shirt from The Bay.

Or, if you're

quite pressed

for cash, it's

possible to

find droves of

nice clothes

at places

like Value

Village or

Goodwill.

This isn't a question of comfort or even of being in a

place where it's not required that you look good every day. This is a question of simple respect. You are in the process of attaining an education, presumably to one day get a respectable job in the real world. I hate to say it, but people just don't respect you as much when you consistently look like a lazy slob.

Believe it or not, the way you're dressed right now could be having an impact on your future. And the way you act when you go to the bar tonight could be the difference between meeting some great person or completely turning them off with your incessant woofing.

So, ladies and gentlemen, when you wake up tomorrow morning, think twice about what you put on. Skip the sweatpants, and try a nice pair of jeans. And, for the love of God, next time you have to fart, please don't let everyone know. It turns my stomach, and you know that can't be good for someone as prissy as I obviously am.



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# Rap videos are turning my brain into a booty-shaking, bling-flashing wasteland



JOSH  
KJENNER

Rap videos are ridiculous.

There are a lot of ways to start an article, but that's pretty much all I could think of, probably because watching these videos has made me too stupid to breathe and chew simultaneously, let alone write.

I'll start by saying that I have no bias against hip hop in general. Sure, I'd rather listen to someone bludgeoning Fran Drescher with a shirt-covered jackhammer than a lot of the junk coming out today, but for every Lil' D' Dre, and that's what keeps me interested. It's the videos I have a problem with.

First of all, the clothes bug me. As Vice magazine so aptly observed: "What is the difference between Ghetto Fabulous and dressing up like a fucking clown?" Seriously, I really want to know. Some people might argue that a band like The Strokes looks just as ridiculous with their skinny ties and beat-to-hell shoes, but at least they're original.

The standard rap formula of sports jersey, athletic shoes, ball hat worn

in any conceivable way except, God forbid, correctly, and a chain the size of PEI hasn't changed in years. Sure, once in a while some guy will tie a bandana around his leg or put a sticky note on his ear or something, but with few exceptions (that's you, Kanye) mainstream rappers will not stray from this formula.

**There's one thing, though, that's even more ubiquitous to rap videos than Bentleys: scantly clad women, or "hizzos," as I believe the technical term is.**

The jewelry is perhaps the most offensive part of these outfitts, which brings me to my next point: why, for God's sake, do rappers seem to think that I care about how much goddamn money they have? There's a name for people who constantly brag about their material wealth: *assholes*. This is a constant now in rap videos—regardless of the point of the song—and it's retarded. You could have three meatheads rapping about light bulbs and robots, and they'd be doing it covered in platinum with the ever-present Bentley in the background. It's ridiculous.

There's one thing, though, that's

even more ubiquitous to rap videos than Bentleys: scantly clad women, or "hizzos," as I believe the technical term is.

This kind of makes sense; really, what is a Bentley or bunch of goddamn jewelry but a vehicle for impressing women? All of these rap videos are basically three-minute long, bass-heavy infomercials designed to make men want to be, and women want to hump, the rappers in the video. Rappers accomplish this by surrounding themselves with hot naked women, which is a hell of a lot cheaper than buying a car or a chain.

The problem I have with this is that even I, a right-wing Albertan pinko-hating redneck, can see how a women shaking her bare ass at frequencies normally reserved for transmitting radio waves can be a tad objectifying. Rappers are basically lumping women into the same category as chains and cars in these videos, and that's not too cool.

But there's one thing that I've kind of overlooked in this entire article: these videos wouldn't be made if there weren't people to watch them. So, reader, do me a favour: start listening to rappers that don't have Bentleys in their videos. Because if I see one more diamond-studded cross swinging on the end of a chain, I'm going to grab a Tek-9 and blast myself.

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## Rural students have it tougher than you think



KYLA  
COULMAN

"How ever many urban kids gripe about not being eligible for loans, it is the same for rural kids as well, despite being hundreds of miles away from our prospective school at times. The scenario thus degenerates into 'fucked if you do or fucked if you don't.'

She surprisingly low amount, she was informed that the quoted sum was due to "[her] ability to commute to and from school." I will explain the ridiculousness of this: my town, instantly identifiable by a large cold lake, is three hours north of Edmonton, which is another three hours from Calgary, where she attends school. Oh, sure, she'll jump into her pickup truck—which we all apparently have—and away she'll go. Was this really just a gross miscalculation, or a refusal to hand out a location-influenced, practical sum to rural kids?

More pressing than inadequate loans, however, is the lack of loans in general. How ever many urban kids gripe about not being eligible for loans; it is the same for rural kids as well, despite being hundreds of miles away from our prospective school at times. The scenario thus degenerates into "fucked if you do or fucked if you don't." For example, we take the university route and then the money for food, rent, utilities, school costs et cetera comes out of our pockets entirely, save for the lucky few who get scholarships. Sure, others that weren't raised in the country may also endure this, but now look at the slickly shining alternative.

Black gold. That's oil out in them woods, and all we gots to do is dig ourselves up some. We may live our lives ignorant of our own intellectual potential, but we'll do crossword puzzles in our pools full of ingots, we promise. Oil companies are practically throwing able-bodied kids into

black unmarked vans and squealing away on the tarmac after high-school graduation. High-school badasses I had were adamant about going to university, but later give me sheepish grins when I question them about their current job. "Why pay to go some place to learn how to get a well-paying job when I can get a well-paying job right away?" Of course, I could write an essay on this flawed logic, but this is the reality for a rural kid. The experience of university is simply not worth the effort.

The kids that do go to school have worked their asses off to be there—working non-stop sometimes, bound to the decision they've made, probably until they are completely done school. However, most of these progenies of the rural conundrum will emerge almost debt-free, and, by circumstance, very experienced and "worldly" in a much different manner than a university education provides.

This isn't to say that I harbour regret about my choices, and I really doubt anyone else I know in the same situation does either. I don't belong anywhere else but here, and I sure wouldn't be here if I didn't love the life of a student, albeit a poor one.

I just wish the situation was better understood by those who assume we're whiners or boring rednecks. In the meantime, I guess I'll have to take my frustrations out on those of you who have returned from real vacations. Ergo, anyone who still has a tan will be tripped. You've been warned.

The whole endeavour projects the image of Jesus saving the infidels; we rural bumpkins don't know how valuable pursuing a postsecondary education is, and Jordan Blatz is going to save us, leading the way to academia via the beautiful gospel in his *Rural Tour 2004/05*. It's actually quite a sound idea in theory, and I admire the intention that Blatz has, misguided as it may be. Blatz was noted in an interview to say "Rural students often have the chance to work in the oil patches right after completing high school, and the cost of missing out on these opportunities is too high." Not bad, but I wonder if he really knows the specifics of the fight he's picking.

One obstruction to rural kids that is often overlooked is the financial conundrum of it all. An acquaintance from my hometown recently applied for her first student loan, and being in the correct tax bracket she was eligible, but only for an amount worthy of one semester. Upon inquiring on

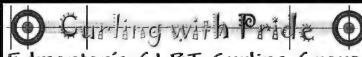
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# Molson, The Bay, not worth crying over

Canadian companies are failing because of their own ineptitude



ROSS  
PRUSAKOWSKI

Woe, Canada! The evil American and multi-national companies are buying up our homegrown ones and we are losing our heritage and traditions! This is just one more step towards our country losing identity! Oh, and did you know that Target is coming to Canada? Isn't that great?

With many Canadians, these statements pretty much sum up our reaction to native companies being bought up and losing their local characteristics. Panic, fury and assertions about the loss of our culture are hurriedly replaced by glee over the newfound access to foreign stores and products. It's not only Canada that faces losing distinctly national companies. All over the world, local and national stores are being bought up and replaced with ugly, union-hating Wal-Marts. However, it seems to be a distinctly Canadian trait to start hand-wringing over the prospect of losing an established national company and then forge the patriotic and nationalistic parts quickly enough to start cheering on whoever bought them up.

Although, if you take a look at these "illustrious" Canadian companies, it wasn't a deterrent to providing bad customer service and worse satisfaction. To produce a product so hor-

rible that only underage kids and those living in campus dormitories would ingest it as a grudging first choice should make all true beer lovers ashamed. It's no wonder that, after more than a century of suffering with their pale lager, Canadians are moving en masse to Budweiser and other swill that provides some measure of flavour and lacks the bouquet of horse urine.

But it's not just Molson and the venerable Hudson's Bay Company that have been shoddily serving Canadians for years and getting away with it for lack of competition. There are masses of other companies that use the fact that they're Canadian as an excuse to be patronized when they're faced with outside competition and can't match the superior products and customer-service culture of the interlopers.

What and how we buy shouldn't be decided by where the company's headquarters are located, but by how well they serve us. The cries of woe with each Canadian company that is bought are ignorant of the fact that these are the weaker sisters of Canadian commerce. Good companies that satisfy customers and provide good service—like Rona and the Running Room, for instance—survive because of these facts, not because of where they are based. People want to be respected and well served by those that they're giving their money to, regardless of what currency they report their profits in.

## Blogs are changing the face of journalism



DAVID  
BERRY

Last Friday was a landmark day in journalism, be it broadcast, print or otherwise: for the first time in the history of the media, a group of bloggers—posters to online web logs, or blogs—brought down a story that appeared in major, mainstream media.

It happened like this: on Wednesday night, CBS' 60 Minutes ran a story about President George W Bush's war record, or lack thereof. It alleged, as several other media outlets have been doing for some time, that Bush was dropped into the Texas National Guard by high-up connections to avoid being sent to Vietnam. However, the unique thing about this particular version of questioning Bush's war record was that CBS supposedly had memos from a senior official in the National Guard at the time complaining about Bush not fulfilling his duties. The story was big enough to warrant getting picked up by several major daily papers the next day.

However, the really interesting thing happened well off the presses. Various blogs and the people who ran them took as much interest in the story as more legitimate media outlets did, and by Thursday afternoon the majority of respectable blogs had come to the consensus that the letters were most likely faked (it had something to do with a lot of really boring typesetting things like kerning).

Now, Internet sources calling the media a pack of fallacious wolves is hardly anything new. Except that, this time, the media sources actually listened. The very next day, Dan Rather came on the CBS news and made a

statement that took a veiled shot at the bloggers but, more importantly, saying that while the overall story itself was accurate, the memos themselves might not have been entirely genuine.

To be fair, it should be pointed out that various circles, including but by no means limited to CBS, are accusing the bloggers that "broke" the story, so to speak, of actually being Republican operatives intent on discrediting the story. But really, whether the letters are fake or not, is entirely irrelevant to the bigger picture. Despite who, if anyone, these online "journalists" were working for, they managed—as an outsider fringe group with little in the way of credibility—to affect a major, respected media source enough that they were publicly acknowledged as a source of information.

This has been pretty broad implications. For starters, it goes to a long way to giving online bloggers a kind of credibility that could very soon put them on par with things like alternate weeklies in terms of sources for accurate information. Pundits have been talking about the transition to online journalism for a little while now, but for the most part it was fairly wishful thinking. An incident like this pushes us just a bit further

down that road.

As well, we can't overlook the usefulness of a network of blogs for doing things like acting as a watchdog for mainstream media. Whether we like to admit it or not, media outlets are businesses—even things like weeklies and other alternative sources, despite what they might claim. The truth is, in mediums such as print, television and radio, business has to factor into operations; it can be minimized, but it can never be entirely eliminated. This isn't the case with blogs, which often need little more than an Internet connection and a devoted administrator to get their message out.

Now, of course, there are limits. The fact that blogs are entirely unregulated, even by the constraints of having to be fiscally sustainable, means that it's incredibly hard to verify the information they have as accurate. And it's still a long time before a blog becomes respected enough to warrant getting interviews with major figures or access to insider information.

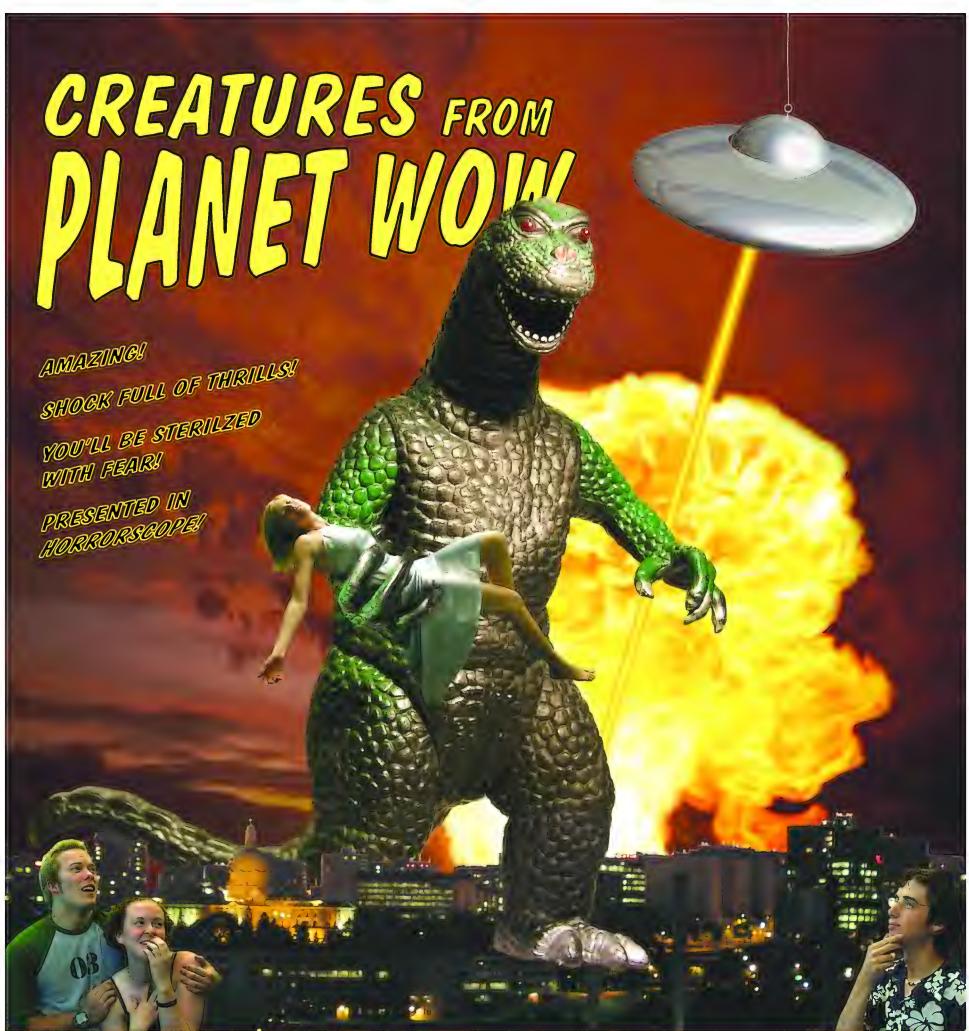
Still, though, the fact that blogs have already affected at least one major media outlet means they have an infinite amount more respect than they did even two weeks ago. Now, of course, it's just a matter of time before politicians begin complaining about the "liberal, left-wing bloggers."

## Dave Alexander's TOP TEN James Bond hillbilly movies

- 10 Octopussy
- 9 Moonshineraker
- 8 Man With the Olden Gun
- 7 Diamonds Are For City Folk
- 6 Driftinger
- 5 Never Say Hatfield Again
- 4 A Hectare Is Not Enough
- 3 From Arkansas With Love
- 2 The First Cousin Who Loved Me
- 1 For Your Eye Only

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## Klein is bleeding money like a hemophiliac in a knife fight

JAMES  
ELFORD



As the provincial election looms large over our heads with its obvious outcome and promise of mass public indifference, it's a good time to reflect on what Premier Klein has thought of throwing money at recently. After all, since it was announced that the shackles of debt have been broken, Albertans don't have anything else to assume Klein is spending their money on.

Leaving aside the problem of lower rents and revenues from oil (the Pembina Institute recently released a study on this problem that claims we capture about 69 per cent of the revenue from oil, as compared to 99 in Alaska or 93 in BC), and concentrating solely on stupid expenditures, we can see a pattern of behaviour that treats money like water at a swimming pool. In a mere two-day period (8 and 9 September), I managed to spot a number of head-smackingly stupid initiatives. Now, this isn't necessarily a surprise—after all, it's government—but it does serve to remind us that if Klein didn't have a wave of oil surpluses and fading memories of his early hack-and-slash cut to ride on, people might realize that he likes to hemorrhage money with as much insight as Jethro in a particularly wacky Beverly Hills episode.

To start, Klein has talked about

spending \$3 million on an election for Alberta's senators. While I believe in Senate reform, given that senators are still appointed, anyone elected in this expensive farce will have the same chance of going to Ottawa as the innovative hobo I saw this summer who had a working barbecue on his shopping cart.

You'd think that if Klein had to compulsively spend money on things, he could try something useful, like buying back the credibility my Alberta degree lost during the debacle over his plagiarism.

Then there are the gold medallions being given out to citizens of Alberta over 100, who have, of course, contributed to Alberta by not dying yet. Apparently we're doing this because saving the cash just wouldn't have the kind of Hollywood razzle-dazzle as having the chance to bury a gold medallion on a tropical island and watch centenarians scurry about for their only shot at buoy in about 70 years.

And, of course, there is the returning spectre of the train tracks to Fort McMurray. It seems to me that the industry that is going to use them should pay the tab rather than the citizens of Alberta—who would, for the most part, probably rather pay money not to ride a train to the oil sands. Of course, I guess I'm just not as forward thinking as Klein, who clearly has thought about the future importance of pissing off trucking companies who have contracts with the oil industry.

Finally, there is always Energy Minister Murray Smith, who wants to become our man in Washington for as much as \$450 000 a year. Of course, this might be more reasonable if this figure included all the bribes/brokers and blow money that Murray may need to break the beef ban, but apparently expenses and entertainment aren't included. Without that, Murray had better develop some meta-human powers and physically destroy anyone opposed to his personally bringing beef across the border—or he can't do that, he'll be about as effective as a fart at a 13-year-old boy's birthday party: laughable at best.

You'd think that if Klein had to compulsively spend money on things, he could try something useful, like buying back the credibility my Alberta degree lost during the debacle over his plagiarism. Or possibly putting some money back into healthcare. Maybe a tax cut. Yeah. Those are great too. But no. A train to the oil sands it is.

Hopefully, if enough people start talking about this kind of waste, we'll actually be able to have an Opposition strong enough to give the PCs a moment to reflect on their spending priorities. Or we could always resort to fairy magic. Or dreams being shuttled in on a train from the oil sands. You know, whatever.

## Quit charging me for using Interac at your store

MACK  
MALE



trips you make to the bank, because funds are deposited for you electronically. And you don't have to spend time filling out deposit summaries. These benefits add up to increased convenience and potentially increased sales."

Why on earth should I pay an extra 35 cents so that they benefit from increased convenience and potentially increased sales? It's ludicrous! It almost sounds a little like discrimination: two customers purchase the same quantity of the same item, but one pays more simply because his or her method of payment is different.

First and foremost, if a method of payment is made available for use, it seems counterproductive to then restrict the use of that method. Why did they invent Interac? Presumably because it's convenient. Now you might claim that because it is convenient, I should be willing to pay a higher price for this extra convenience. Maybe, but I'm not the only one benefiting from extra convenience. Any easier time I get from using Interac is easily balanced, if not overshadowed, by the added convenience the merchant receives. My use of Interac saves them time on a wide range of things—the funds go directly into their account, they don't have to hold cash on hand, plus there's no deposit slips to fill out, no trips to the bank in those seemingly expensive Brinks trucks, and so on.

Even TD Bank advertises Interac

machines by talking about their time-saving potential. According to their website, "An automated terminal provides instant authorization of Interac Direct Payment, Visa and other major credit card transactions. ... [It also] allows you to reduce the number of

next sentence, they clearly point out "A merchant cannot surcharge for the use of Interac Direct Payment. The surcharge fee is in addition to any service charges the cardholders may pay their financial institution for using the Interac direct services."

So, according to Interac, merchants cannot charge me a surcharge on top of whatever the bank is charging already. So, if the University wants to charge me a surcharge, I want some cold, hard proof that they are being charged per transaction by the bank. I haven't read, seen, or heard anything about the banks raising their rates this September, and it seems to me that it would have made the news if they did. After all, according to Interac, there are more than 34 million banking cards in circulation, and they get used an average of 76 times a second, every hour of every day. That's probably enough to justify a little announcement.

The bottom line is that charging me for something that saves them money is downright ridiculous, and I won't have it. The war is on.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LEANNE FONG

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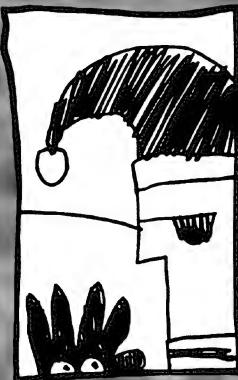
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# Comic Conundrum



A feature by Daniel Kaszor  
Photos by Paul James Coutts and Phil Head  
With art by Stephen Notley & Bill Benson

**M**ost people don't put much thought into a newspaper's daily comics page—in fact, they usually only flip past it briefly on their way to the more important parts of the paper.

However, from the rather repetitive lasagna-eating antics of *Garfield* to the life affirmations of *For Better Or For Worse*, the strips you see in the paper today could be on the verge of extinction. And with prices going up, the new business paradigm of Web comics may be moving in to take their place.

The comics page started as a way for rival papers in cities with multiple dailies to compete with one another. In multi-paper cities, the dailies would do anything to get a slight edge over their competition, and the comics page was one of the best ways to do that. If a paper could get a popular comic that the other paper lacked, it might be the difference between thousands of subscribers. In that environment, cartoon syndicates were born.

The cartoon syndicates would hire artists to create comic properties (often owned by the syndicates themselves) that they would sell in bulk, pre-edited and guaranteed family safe. This arrangement meant that both the newspapers and the syndicates got what they wanted—more readers and therefore more money.



**TRAPPED IN THE WEB!** Steve Notley feels boxed in by the term “Web comic” applied to his work.

PHIL HEAN

The beginning of the Web comic is notably different than its brothers and sisters in newspapers. Usually published less frequently than the syndicated strips, Web comics are most often available free of charge on the 'Net, initially generating no money for the artist as a result.

Currently, many comics exist in a limbo between print and Web. This is the case for local comic *Bob the Angry Flower* ([www.angryflower.com](http://www.angryflower.com)) by notable local cartoonist Stephen Noah. "I'd prefer to say that it's a print comic that's on the Web," Noah explains. "But since I run in almost no print outlets, I know I'm doing myself with that. Almost everyone who's ever seen my comic has seen it on the Web, so I must admit I'm mostly a Web comic." Noah's comic is one of the few that have made the transition from print to Web.

But Notley has some trepidations about labeling himself as such. "Web comics have kind of a taint to them, maybe because there are so many really crappy ones out there, and I've been psychologically distancing myself from the Web comics scene ever since it appeared."

Such is the greatest strength and weakness of the Web comic on the Internet in general. Because anyone can put a comic online, there are thousands of sub-par comics along with all the ones that have new and original ideas. However, if a Web cartoonist wants to start making a living with their comic, they can't just write fart jokes overtop of drawings stolen from someone else, as most of the most derivative comics do. At the same time, the freedom of the Internet allows for different panel sizes, liberal use of color, jarring visual styles, and humour outside the small, family comic page.

Each Web-comic artist has a different reason for investing his/her effort into creating online art. The initial motivation is simply how easy it is to release a published product online, all for a potential audience of millions without having to sign deals or get hired in any way. This new type of comic production has created a plethora of new comic sites from niche sites to gaming-influenced comic blog *Penny Arcade* ([www.penny-arcade.com](http://www.penny-arcade.com)) to the gothic styles of *Scary Go Round* ([www.scarygoround.com](http://www.scarygoround.com)), neither of which could ever be printed on the daily comic page because of adult content and a narrow audience appeal.

However, there are drawbacks to only publishing comics online. Once a Web comic hits a certain level of popularity, the server bandwidth costs of hosting it hit a point where, if the comic is generating money, the artist faces massive expenses to continue running it. This raises the question of how to make money or give something away for free.

Many artists go through different phases of payment structures often starting by asking for donations from their readers, which works better than one might think. Programs from Amazon and PayPal allow donations of small amounts to continue the existence of many Web comics. A system like this can be found on [Realtor](#).

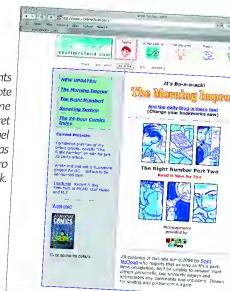
Comics ([www.reallifecomics.com](http://www.reallifecomics.com)), where the strip is popular enough to have a large readership base willing to make donations. However, as the popularity of the comic increases, donations are usually enough to sustain the sites and they are too inconsistent a method of funding for many artists.

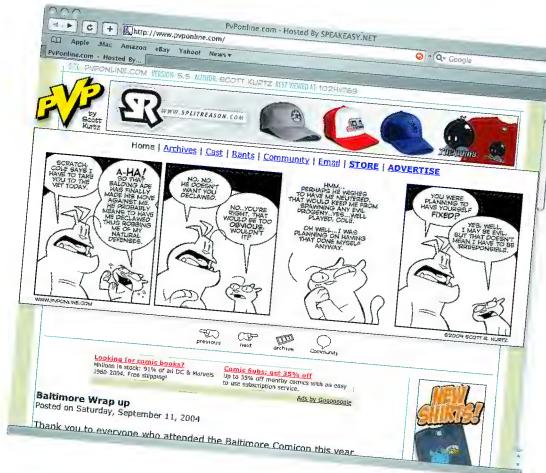
Certain Web cartoonists believe that giving the comic away free is the main problem. Scott McCloud, author of *Understanding Comics*, says:

Some Web comics have evolved in such a way that they can no longer exist in print. For example, while Penny Arcade began as a fairly standard web comic about gaming (both video and otherwise), it has since evolved into a hub of gaming geek culture on the Internet, with the blog posts and community as important as the comic itself. Recently, Penny Arcade creator Mike Krahulik and Jerry Holkins organized the first Penny Arcade Expo (PAX), which had over 3000 attendees from across North America.



In addition to being one of the prime proponents of micropayments, Scott McCloud made wrote Understanding Comics, a seminal volume about the way people read and interpret the visual language of comic art. The sequel Reinventing Comics was more controversial, as it proposed a move away from the superhero comic book.





Scott Kurtz at PvP online makes money through advertising and merchandising. At this year's San Diego Comic Con, Kurtz made a deal with NCsoft to give away copies of the game City of Heroes with a purchase of \$50. NCsoft made away with the large subscription fees related to the game, and Kurtz had huge lines throughout the convention.

Comics, offers his Web comic to customers through micro-payments. For the small fee of 25 cents, you can purchase rights to his comic *The Right Number* ([www.scottmccloud.com](http://www.scottmccloud.com)). However, many people, such as Web writer Clay Shirky ([www.shirky.com](http://www.shirky.com)), think of micro-payments as a regression that shouldn't exist in the digital world. Whether the micro-payment system is workable or not, most Web-comic artists seem to be avoiding it. Instead, when the popularity of their comic gets to a critical point, they are able to make money purely off of merchandising and on-site advertising.

This method can be seen at Penny Arcade, where the donation system was recently shut down because they felt they were being a touch dishonest about how well they were doing through other revenue streams. This can also be seen with the daily Web comic *PWP* ([www.pvponline.com](http://www.pvponline.com)), run by artist Scott Kurtz.

Kurtz has seen how he can make money by giving his comic away for free, and now he wants to jump onto the daily comics page. However, he thinks that the current method of newspapers paying huge sums is outdated, and he may be right.

**"The thing about all this tooning and Web 'tooning is that everybody's making it up as they go along, trying stuff out to see what works, and developing parallel strategies to make money."**

STEPHEN NOTLEY

The era of media conglomeration and alternate news sources has relegated multi-paper markets to only the largest cities. Oftentimes, even in those larger markets, the papers have created such disparate niches for themselves that they don't even compete anymore (such as in Vancouver, where the two dailies are both owned by CanWest). At the same time, newspapers are competing with a growing number of other news sources, from CNN to the Internet. In this climate, the dailies have tighter budgets and less need for a competitive edge.

Over the last year, California-based Knight Ridder (which owns 31 daily newspapers) demanded a 20 per cent reduction in the price of the comics coming from their syndicate. In other words, the dailies are getting to the point where they can't afford syndicated comics anymore. What this means is that less and less syndicated cartoons will make their way into the paper in the future.

"The newspapers are wising up and they're unwilling to pay. The syndicates have nothing to offer them, save a large bill," Kurtz explains on his website. He has another plan: to incorporate the Web-based model that he is already making a living off of into the comics page. Starting soon, *PWP* will be offered to daily newspapers for free.

"The exposure and prestige of *PWP* appearing in daily papers would more than pay for itself in a month's time," says Kurtz.

There have been mixed reactions to this from both print and Web cartoonists. Notley is on the fence. "Giving stuff away for free has positives and negatives. The positives are that you remove the money barrier from people enjoying your work, so presumably your audience grows to its near-maximum size. On the other hand,

I've been to a lot of comic conventions where folks are giving their shit away for free, and that usually tells you that it's no good. The thing about all this 'tooning and Web 'tooning' is that everybody's making it up as they go along, trying stuff out to see what works, and developing parallel strategies to make money."

Fish Grivkovsky, another local cartoonist who dabbles in both print and the Web (*Space Cat*, [www.zardex.com](http://www.zardex.com)), is less convinced. "I actually have some experience with Internet content schemes, having worked in San Francisco during the dot com fizzle," he explains. "The bottom line is that money can only be made off real items you can hold in your hand. That's not to say having comics online has no value; it's just not commercial."

Of course, this factors into Kurtz's line of thinking. The way he sees it, the Web comic is more of a promotional tool than anything else. "If Coca-Cola wants to use newspaper advertising to strengthen its brand, it has to pay for that kind of exposure. The syndicates make millions from their comics features via books, television, movies, and merchandise. The only way they are able to sustain that kind of income is due to the exposure and advertising

that the newspapers give them."

What is yet to be seen is whether Kurtz can convince other Web cartoonists that this is a good idea. Kurtz already formats his strips in a way similar to many print comics pages, tones down the objectionable content, and produces a daily strip. But to get others to give up these freedoms might be difficult.

Moreover, Kurtz's business plan faces other potential difficulties. For example, many cartoonists don't see their strips as a commodity like he does, the syndicates might try to stop him through a number of means, and the dailies simply might not be interested.

"Of course, this may not work at all," Kurtz admits. "Convincing one paper, any paper, in a major market to take this on might be more daunting than I realize."

Whatever the case, the old paradigm of the sleepy comics page may be almost extinct. Whether through an invasion of free comics coming from Scott Kurtz and others like him, or through the eventual movement of the genre to the Web, comics have started to get a lot broader than the old days of Garfield hating Mondays.

**FISH'N FOR ATTENTION** Fish hopes that his 15 years of unpaid strip-drawing at the Gateway proves that he won't tone himself down for a payday. As for having his comics on the Web, he says the best part is that "Strangers tell me I'm cool in my Inbox now instead of the gladiator rings and burlesque palaces."



PAUL JAMES COUSINS

# SPORTS

sports@gatewayualberta.ca • thursday, 16 september, 2004

## Unbeaten Bears finally return home

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Sports Editor

The Golden Bears football team has had success on the road to begin this year, but after seven straight games away from Foote Field dating back to last season, they're looking forward to finally coming home.

After opening the year with a pair of road wins at Regina and Saskatchewan, the 2-0 Bears, ranked fourth in the country, will be heavy favourites when they host the unranked UBC Thunderbirds (1-0) in their home opener at 7pm Saturday at Foote Field.

The road wins put the Bears, who currently sit alone in first place in Canada West, in excellent playoff position, with four of their remaining six regular season games at home.

"If you can win on the road, that's huge," said Bears head coach Jerry Friesen. "In Canada West, you're expected to win all your home games; that's the bottom line. Then you want to go out and steal as many games as you can on the road. As tough as our conference is, going into another park and stealing a game is a real benefit."

Aside from the implications for the standings, though, the Bears are simply looking forward to returning to friendly surroundings after such a long break.

"The players are all excited about finally getting a chance to play at home in front of their fans," said Friesen. "It's been a long time coming."

Bears running back Jarred Winkel echoed his coach's sentiments, arguing that despite the success the team has had away from home, they expect even more from themselves at Foote Field.

"It's nice to be back home. I love playing here, and it's a great atmosphere with all the fans," said Winkel. "When you play at home and a team's got to come in and play you, you definitely want to develop that sense of coming into an unfriendly territory, a territory where you have to be at your best to win."

Alberta's biggest concern heading into Saturday's game is their running attack, which faltered severely last week after a week-one injury to fullback Tim Hetherington, who's out for the season with a broken ankle. The Bears were also missing right tackle Ryan Dubyk,



FILE PHOTO: JAMES JOHNSON

RUNNING HOME Running back Jarred Winkel and the Golden Bears are playing at home for the first time in over eleven months.

who won't be back in the lineup Saturday. The injuries hampered the Bears' run-blocking; they ran for only 39 yards last week in Saskatchewan after a 232-yard effort in Regina the previous week.

"We're still making adjustments, trying players at different positions just to find out if we

have a fullback," said Friesen. "It's a going concern, where we end up making sure we get the best-quality players on the field."

Though admittedly disappointed in last week's rushing stats, Winkel expressed confidence that the Bears' running game will be closer to week-one form this weekend.

"We had some good substitutes in there, but it does take some time for them to mesh and create that gel that the starting group had," said Winkel. "We're ready this week. Everybody's played in a game now, and we're ready to take a few steps forward and put some running yards up on the board."

## Soccer Bears in tough to win second straight national title

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI  
Sports Writer

After capturing their first national championship in 24 years last season, the Golden Bears soccer squad is returning to the pitch hungry for a return trip to Montréal and back-to-back titles.

"Definitely our goal is to make it back to the national final and win it," said Bear defender Nell Morrow, who is entering his fifth and final year of eligibility. "I think that's a goal for every team, but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to know as a defending champion that teams are going to be gunning for us."

Satisfaction over what the team accomplished last year will have to be short lived if they're to equal that success, according to Morrow.

"Even though we won, we can't be complacent and think just because we're defending national champions we're going to do it all over again," he said. "The guys that are returning from last year know how hard we worked to achieve that goal and we are going to have to step it up even more."

A pre-season exhibition swing through British Columbia last weekend proved that the journey back to the top will indeed be a difficult one. The Bears escaped the wet coast with a 1-1 record and nursing numerous injuries, which Bears head coach Len Vickery suggested was a mixed blessing.

"Since we left a start at home because of



FILE PHOTO: JEFFREY CRISSENAUS

ON THE PROWL The Bears soccer squad is done with exhibition and ready to begin their season.

injury and had another four guys on the trip that only played sparingly because of injuries, we were missing a lot of experience," said Vickery. "The positive side was it allows us to play the younger players a fair bit more and see how they fare against Canada West competition."

"It was good for the young guys to get some experience and see how tough it's going to be in Canada West to win," added Morrow.

Injuries and high-level competition aren't the only things that could thwart the Bears' drive for another crown, however. Even advancing out of the conference will be a challenge. Alberta, along with the UBC Thunderbirds, Victoria Vikes and Trinity Western Spartans—who all consistently rank in the top ten nationally—are each looking to snag one of three spots in the conference post-season, while the host Calgary Dinos, a traditionally weaker team, get an automatic berth.

"We have to finish in the top three, and given the strength of the BC schools, ourselves and the competition level within Canada West, this has got to be one of the, if not the best, conferences in Canada," said Vickery. "If you do well in this conference and go on to a national championship, you have a very good chance of winning it all."

The Bears will begin their title defense on the road Saturday when they head to Lethbridge for a 2pm match against the Pronghorns. At 2:15pm Sunday, they'll face the Dinos in Calgary.

# Strong goaltending lifts Bears to commanding win over Oiler rookies

JAKE RUGHTON  
Sports Editor

It was only their first exhibition game of the year, but the Golden Bears hockey team played like it meant something Tuesday night in a scrappy, penalty-filled 8-2 win over the Edmonton Oiler rookies.

The win was the fourth in a row for the Bears over the Oiler rookies, and gave them a 9-8 lifetime edge in the annual exhibition. Bears head coach Rob Daum said he was surprised by the lopsided score in this year's edition.

"This has always been a very close game, so this wasn't what we expected," he said. "But we got a couple goals early, and it's always much easier to play from ahead than behind. I thought we were able to maintain our game throughout, and that's one of the things you worry about, because conditioning isn't at a top level at this point of the year."

Alberta jumped out to a 4-1 lead only nine minutes into the game on the strength of two-goal shift by forward Jonathan Hobson, including the game-winning goal on a penalty shot awarded when an Oiler skater threw the puck out of his crease.

"It was kind of a weird shift, to get two goals," said Hobson. "I was high in the slot and my linemates were doing all the work in the corners, so it was one of those shifts where I didn't even work very hard," he added with a laugh. "But those shifts happen every now and then."

The first period was quiet for the officials, with only the penalty shot called, but emotions started to boil over in the second as the Oilers tried to get themselves back in the game. An early scrum set off a string of nine penalties in the period, including five



JEFFREY GREENHAUS

**GET OUT OF MY WAY** Bears defenseman Harlan Anderson repels an Oiler attack Tuesday. Nothing the Oiler rookies tried seemed to work in an 8-2 loss.

roughing minors. Nonetheless, Daum was pleased with the discipline his players showed in the unusually feisty exhibition game.

"The Oilers were in a tough spot, they were behind in the game and wanted to try and generate something," said Daum. "That's not unusual for that to happen, because people want to make a mark, and that's one way it shows itself. But we don't want to turn this into a night of fights, because that doesn't do us any good.

We wanted to make sure that didn't happen, and I thought we did a good job of keeping our composure."

Despite missing starting goaltender Dustin Schwartz, out with a minor knee injury, the Bears goaltending looked sharp. BJ Boona and Rathjen split time between the pipes for Alberta, turning away 34 of 36 Oiler shots, while Oiler goalkeepers Jeff Drouin-Deslauriers and Devin Dubnyk struggled, stopping only 31 of 39 shots.

"We got a couple of fortuitous goals, ones that both their goaltenders would want back, and I think that was the difference," said Daum. "Our goaltenders were steady and didn't let in any questionable goals, and unfortunately tonight their goaltenders weren't quite as strong as they have been, and will be in the future."

The Clare Drake Arena crowd of 1528 was smaller than normal for Bears-Oilers match, likely due to Canada's win in the World Cup of

Hockey Tuesday night, which partially overlapped with the Bears game. The small crowd seemed to disappoint some Bears players, but they sympathized with the fans' divided loyalties.

"Maybe we'll play [Wednesday] we might have had a few more fans out there," said Hobson. "It was just the diehard fans out there, but what can you do? It was a lot of fun. We watched the World Cup highlights after, and that was a lot of fun too. It was kind of a double win for us," he laughed.

## STUDENT AWARDS

### RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

The Rhodes Scholar Competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students in any Faculty. These scholarships are tenable at the University of Oxford in England and cover fees, board and lodging, and travel expenses for two years of study. Scholars may follow their own choice of study and are required to attend Oxford in October 2005.

Proven intellectual and academic attainment of a high standard is required. Candidates must also show integrity of character, sympathy for and protection of the weak, the ability to lead, the energy to use their talents to the fullest, and participation in sports.

Candidates must be Canadian citizens or living in Canada; have been born between October 2, 1980, and October 1, 1986; and have received an undergraduate degree before attending Oxford (except medical students).

**Deadline for receipt of applications is 01 October 2004.** For more information, contact the Student Awards Office.

For additional information on University of Alberta scholarships please visit our website [www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards)

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## STUDENT AWARDS

### UNDERGRADUATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The University of Alberta Leadership Awards Program is designed to recognize those undergraduate students who have demonstrated leadership skills and potential through involvement and participation in university and/or community organizations, sports, cultural or political activities. **There are approximately 50 awards that can be applied for through this competition.** The awards range in value from \$500 to \$12,500 with some being Faculty specific and some open to students in any Faculty. Application forms are available on the Student Awards website at [www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards).

Applicants must be registered full-time in both the fall and winter terms in order to apply for these scholarships. Deadline for receipt of applications in the Student Awards Office is **15 October 2004**.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON  
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# New rules an Olympic win for transsexual athletes

STEPHEN HUI  
National Bureau Chief

VANCOUVER (CUP)—“It’s about time,” Michelle Dumaresq says of the International Olympic Committee’s decision to allow transsexual athletes to compete in their self-identified gender.

Dumaresq, 33, broke new ground

for transsexual athletes in 2001 by asserting her right to race as a woman. Now the post-operative male-to-female transsexual from Vancouver is the Canadian national champion in the women’s downhill mountain-biking discipline.

While the IOC’s new rules won’t apply to her—since downhill is not yet an Olympic sport—Dumaresq says

she’s pleased that trans athletes hoping to participate in the Games will no longer face the barriers that have dogged her.

Until recently, citing concerns that athletes who have changed gender may have a competitive advantage, the IOC had barred them from competing in the Olympics. That changed in May, when the IOC’s executive board

approved a policy setting out conditions under which transsexual athletes would be allowed to compete. The new rules kicked in this summer in Athens, although no trans athletes competed at the Games.

“I think this clearly shows that we will always address issues on human rights. That’s something that we find very important,” says Charmaine Crooks, an Olympic silver medalist and Canadian IOC member living in Vancouver.

According to the IOC’s new policy, a transsexual athlete must have undergone sexual reassignment surgery to be eligible to compete in their gender. If the operation took place before puberty, the athlete’s gender will be respected.

In the case of a post-puberty gender transition, athletes must undergo complete genital surgery and have their gonads (their ovaries or testes) removed before they can compete. They also have to get legal recognition of their chosen gender and complete hormone therapy to minimize any sex-related advantages. They will then have to wait two years before they become eligible to apply for a confidential IOC evaluation.

Dumaresq says the IOC’s policy—including its two-year wait—is appropriate. “I believe that there should be a waiting period to eliminate the physical advantages,” she says. “I know personally how long my body took to change, and two years is plenty.”

Some observers have expressed concern that transsexual athletes may, in spite of the rules, possess an unfair advantage over their peers. One news report quoted an Ottawa doctor’s claims that male-to-female transsexuals will have the advantage of size and strength, while female-to-male transsexuals could have an edge where endurance is concerned. The report raised the spectre of Olympic-obsessed athletes changing sex to gain the upper hand.

Dumaresq disputes such claims. The mountain biker is adamant she doesn’t have any unfair advantage over her peers.

“I have lost the ability to build muscle and have lost the muscle mass that I once had—gone,” she says.

“I work out constantly just to try and maintain a strong physical fit-

ness level,” she explains. “Many have said, ‘What if a pro athlete changes sex?’ Well, if a pro athlete wants to go through what I’ve gone through, and then start racing again to try and win, let them try.”

The Stockholm Consensus, as the IOC’s new trans policy is known, was formulated by a committee of experts convened by the IOC’s medical commission to make recommendations on the participation of athletes who have undergone sexual reassignment in sport.

Some of those experts had already helped abolish the IOC’s highly controversial gender verification procedures. Gender verification testing of female athletes at the Olympics began in 1968 at Mexico City. The process—initially a gynecological exam, later a chromosomal test—was invasive and unreliable. In 2000, the IOC scrapped gender testing in time for the Sydney Olympics.

Meanwhile, Dumaresq continues to make history in her discipline. Cycling’s governing bodies suspended the mountain biker in 2001 after some of her fellow racers filed complaints against her. The decision on Dumaresq’s status eventually came down to her birth certificate, which she had changed to identify herself as female. The Canadian Cycling Association decided that since Dumaresq is legally recognized as female, she should have the right to compete in women’s sports.

In 2002, Dumaresq was granted a full license to compete as a pro mountain biker. She went on to win the Canada Cup series, become the first known transsexual athlete to earn a spot on a national team, and place 24th at the world championships. Last year, she made history again when she won the national downhill championship in Whistler. She finished 17th at the world championships in Lucerne, Switzerland.

Dumaresq says she knows of transsexual athletes hoping to compete in future Olympics, including the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver.

“During my time racing, I have faced many people who had prejudices and intolerances towards me and people like me,” she says. “I hope that I have educated some, so that it’ll be easier for the next athlete with a trans history to be included.”



PHOTOILLUSTRATION: MATT FREIHER

**ERASING GENDER CONFUSION** New IOC rules allow post-surgical transsexuals to compete in their new gender.

“I might be the world’s only fat contortionist. I mean those Cirque du Soleil people can do stuff I can’t do but, Jesus Christ, eat a sandwich,”

said in **ed** – July 17, 2004

**ed** Meet the locals saturdays in the Journal  
the magazine



WHERE NO ONE HAS BIKE BEFORE Mountain biker Michelle Dumaresq.

## Hockey Pandas ready to open pre-season against rival Chimos

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Sports Editor

For most teams, exhibition games are low-key affairs offering them a chance to experiment and evaluate talent without undue pressure to win.

But for the hockey Pandas, who've steamrolled their conference competition on the way to three straight national championships, exhibition games can offer some of their toughest challenges of the year.

That will certainly be the case this weekend, when the Pandas face their cross-town rivals the Edmonton Chimos in a pair of games at Clare Drake Arena. The Chimos, who will play the upcoming season in the newly-formed Western Women's Hockey League, are a much more formidable opponent than the Pandas are likely to meet during the Canada West season. Last March, they finished third at the national championships. Yet they lost all three full-squad matches against the Pandas last season, and the two teams have developed a strong rivalry over who is the best team in Edmonton.

Pandas head coach Howie Draper tried to downplay the rivalry, focusing more on the opportunity to evaluate his players at this point in the year. But he still admitted that there's a little bit extra on the line against the Chimos.

"The players will be competitive no matter what time of year it is. They'll feel the rivalry much more intensively than I do," said Draper. "It's about bragging rights a little bit, but I think at this point of the season both coaches are more worried about trying to get that final lineup in. But we'll play them a couple times later on

in the month and in November, and that's where the competitiveness will start to rear its head."

All-star Pandas forward Danielle Bourgeois, last year's CIS MVP, lends credence to the idea that players are more emotionally invested in the Chimos games than Draper is.

"We definitely have a rivalry with the Chimos," said Bourgeois. "As well as it being an evaluative opportunity for Howie to look at everyone in a hard game situation, I do feel we have a lot on the line in terms of emotion. It's always nice to beat the Chimos."

Still, Draper insisted that at this point, with his roster not yet decided, the chance to play an opponent of the Chimos' calibre is more important as an evaluative exercise.

"We've got a lot of tough decisions to make this year, so hopefully it'll help reveal some weaknesses and strengthen that maybe we haven't seen thus far."

Aside from the 4pm Friday and 2pm Sunday matches against the Chimos, the Pandas will also face the Grant MacEwan Griffins Saturday at 2pm, also at Clare Drake. The Griffins are a top team in the Alberta Colleges Athletics Conference, but shouldn't pose much of a threat to the Pandas. Draper argues, though, that playing a weaker team also has an evaluative usefulness.

"I hope we won't have trouble with them, but it's not about winning this weekend. It's about evaluating," said Draper. "We play a lot of teams that aren't at a really high level in our league, so it's good to see how players react in that situation. Do they turn it up a notch, or sit back and let the other team dictate the play?"

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### *Football*

Week three in Canada West football kicks off at 1pm Saturday at McMahon Stadium in Calgary, when the 0-2 Dinos open the season against the 1-1 Manitoba Bisons.

Sunday, in a game to be played on the UBC campus, the sixth-ranked Simon Fraser Clan (1-0) will host the seventh-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies (1-1) in a key early-season matchup between last season's Canada West champion and regular season leader respectively.

The 0-2 Regina Rams have a bye this week. Radio coverage of all games this weekend will be available online. See <http://www.canadawest.org> for more information:

### *Women's Soccer*

The regular season continued Tuesday night when the UBC Thunderbirds, ranked first in the nation, downed the visiting Trinity Western Spartans 2-0 in the first game of the season for both teams.

The seventh-ranked Pandas open their regular season in Lethbridge versus the Pronghorns on Saturday at noon. The next day, they travel to Calgary for a noon match with the Dinos.

### *Men's Soccer*

Like the women, the male Thunderbirds hosted Trinity Western on Tuesday in the first game for both teams, and came out on top by two goals, winning 3-1.

The Golden Bears will travel along with the Pandas to Lethbridge and Calgary this weekend to open their own regular season. Game times are 2pm Saturday and 2:15pm Sunday.

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- Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation  
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- Canadian Mental Health Association  
- Canadian Society for the Treatment of Trauma and Stress  
- Canadian Society for Traumatic Stress Studies  
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## THE STATS PAGE

### Football

#### Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PTS
Alberta	2	2	0	0	0	41	30	4
Simon Fraser	1	1	0	0	0	35	24	2
UBC	1	1	0	0	0	18	11	2
Saskatchewan	2	1	1	0	0	45	18	2
Manitoba	2	1	1	0	0	23	26	2
Regina	2	0	2	0	0	22	35	0
Calgary	2	0	2	0	0	24	64	0

Note: 1 point awarded for overtime loss

#### Week three schedule

##### Saturday

Manitoba @ Calgary 1pm

UBC @ Alberta 7pm (CJSR)

##### Sunday

Saskatchewan @ Simon Fraser 2pm

#### Canada West scoring leaders

Player	Team	TD	XP	FG	2XP	R	Pts
1 B Ollen	SASK	0	4	4	0	1	17
2 B Filkowich	ALB	0	4	2	0	3	13
3 J Winkel	ALB	2	0	0	0	0	12
J Piercy	SASK	2	0	0	0	0	12
5 L Congi	SFU	0	4	2	0	1	11
6 N Beveridge	UBC	1	0	0	0	0	6
JR Davies	SFU	1	0	0	0	0	6
B Cowden	SFU	1	0	0	0	0	6
T Smith	SFU	1	0	0	0	0	6
M Kipps	SFU	1	0	0	0	0	6

CIS top ten (last week)

- 1 Saint Mary's (1)
- 2 McMaster (2)
- 3 Laval (3)
- 4 Alberta (5)
- 5 SFU (7)
- 6 Simon Fraser (6)
- 7 Saskatchewan (4)
- 8 Western (10)
- 9 Wilfrid Laurier (NR)
- 10 Ottawa (NR)

### Women's Soccer

#### Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Lethbridge	2	2	0	0	12	3	6
UBC	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Alberta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calgary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Victoria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saskatchewan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trinity Western	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
Regina	2	0	2	0	3	12	0

Note: 3 points awarded for a win

#### Results

##### Tuesday

Trinity Western 0 UBC 2

#### Schedule

##### Tonight

Regina @ Trinity Western 6pm

UBC @ Victoria 7pm

##### Saturday

Alberta @ Lethbridge 12pm

Saskatchewan @ Calgary 12pm

Regina @ UBC 1pm

##### Sunday

Saskatchewan @ Lethbridge 12pm

Alberta @ Calgary 12pm

Regina @ Victoria 1pm

### Men's Soccer

#### Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
UBC	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	3
Alberta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lethbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calgary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Victoria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saskatchewan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trinity Western	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	0

Note: 3 points awarded for a win

#### Results

##### Tuesday

Trinity Western 1 UBC 3

#### Schedule

##### Tonight

Victoria @ Trinity Western 8:15pm

##### Saturday

Alberta @ Lethbridge 2pm

Saskatchewan @ Calgary 2:15pm

Victoria @ UBC 3:15pm

##### Sunday

Saskatchewan @ Lethbridge 2pm

Alberta @ Calgary 2:15pm

### Men's Hockey

#### Exhibition

##### Tuesday

Oiler rookies 2 Alberta 8

##### Friday

UBC @ Alberta 7:30pm

##### Saturday

UBC @ Alberta 7:30pm

### Women's Hockey

#### Exhibition

##### Friday

Edmonton Chimos @ Alberta 4pm

##### Saturday

Grant MacEwan @ Alberta 2pm

##### Sunday

Edmonton Chimos @ Alberta 2pm

### Cross-Country

#### Non-conference

##### Saturday

Red Deer tournament 12pm

### Women's Volleyball

#### Exhibition

##### Friday

Canada Masters @ Alberta 8pm

##### Saturday (at Whitecourt)

Alberta vs Canada Masters 6pm

##### Monday

Alberta @ King's College 6:30pm

### Ringette

#### Sunday (Clare Drake Arena)

Edmonton Belle AA @ U of A Ringette Club 6pm

## Glam pioneer finds her frontier in new documentary

*Superstar in a Housedress* fondly looks back at the life and high times of poet, performer, and Warhol scenester Jackie Curtis



### *Superstar in a Housedress*

*Directed by Craig Highberger  
Starring Jackie Curtis, Harvey Fierstein,  
and Lily Tomlin  
Metro Cinema  
17–20 September at 7pm  
[www.jackiecurtis.com](http://www.jackiecurtis.com)*

MICHAEL LAROCQUE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Thrift shopping and non-conformist attitudes may be all the rage in today's "hip" culture, but in 1960s New York the shockingly glam lifestyle of bohemians and drag queens who lived for the art and theatre of the time was where it was at.

In *Superstar in a Housedress*, filmmaker Craig Highberger documents the life of his friend, Jackie Curtis. A poet, performer, and cross-dressing superstar, Curtis' work focused on controversial topics and featured men in drag. The film chronicles Curtis' meagre and shaky beginnings in the New York theatre scene and follows her rise to become an icon of the experimental arts and theater movement that built such artists as Andy Warhol (who, incidentally, featured Curtis in several of his works).

Through interviews with relatives and friends—which include Harvey Fierstein (*Torch Song Trilogy*) and Lily Tomlin (*The West Wing*)—we experience the humour, excitement, and companionship that Jackie Curtis shared with her fellow performers in a business and time where making art was the motivation and earning money was just a small, though necessary, detail.

While the main purpose of the film is to document a life which touched so many others, the film is also interesting in and of itself for focusing on a culture which most people—at least those living

in your average urban setting—don't experience often, if at all. A large number of the commentators are gay, transgendered, or transvestite, and interestingly refer to Jackie either as "he" or "she" (and occasionally alternating between both), presumably dependent on how they ultimately came to know their friend the best.

But the movie's most interesting aspect is how it not only serves as a memoir of the life of Jackie Curtis, but works as a documentary of the counterculture of 1960s and 1970s New York. While the film's commentators share their personal memories of Curtis, they each inevitably begin to slip into a captivating reminiscence of their lives—making truly inspiring art, scraping by on whatever they could earn, and nothing but performing in drug-fueled plays which were held—as one enterprising journalist, Michael Musto, jokes in the film—"off-off-of-broadway."

The film's only weakness is it caters to those who already have a familiarity with Curtis' career and offers limited exposition narration on her youth and arrival on the New York scene. The film begins in the middle of Curtis' life, but still manages to show the audience such a vast array of her work and entertain them with some truly hilarious and sincerely heartfelt stories that by end of the film you feel like you have spent a few months in Curtis' loft in the 70s, surrounded by all the drugs, culture, and characters that inspired her.

If nothing else, this film is a touching tribute to a friend who clearly affected and inspired the lives of many people. Andy Warhol once said that, "Jackie Curtis is not a drag queen, Jackie is an artist. A pioneer without a frontier." While the picture of New York culture presented in the movie may be only a dimming memory, Jackie Curtis' work has found a new—if not first—frontier in this story of her life.

## Move over, Robbie Burns: the future is Cohen Nights

**COHEN** • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I was trying to organize a meeting over in Scotland while I was there during January to get people focused on what we were doing. But they were all talking about this Robbie Burns night. I thought, 'What a phenomenon!' But why only have it about this one person? There is all this pageantry surrounding the night. Why couldn't we do this for Leonard Cohen?"

**Leonard Cohen Night**  
with the Chickadees, Phil Alain, and Ira Nadel  
*The Westin Hotel (1035 100 Street)*  
Saturday, 18 September at 5:30pm  
[www.leonardcohenights.org](http://www.leonardcohenights.org)

Like Robbie Burns, one might argue that Cohen's works aren't generally well known. Most people can name one or two of his songs at best, and fewer still are familiar with his poetry. But Solez says being uninitiated in the cult of Cohen won't stop you from having a good time at the event.

"People who know nothing about the man can come and have a good time," he points out. And indeed, Leonard Cohen Night is as much a celebration of local talent as that of Cohen.

Many local artists contribute to the festivities each year. Of note, Phil Alain will be presenting a series of paintings inspired by Cohen's songs, and local a cappella group the Chickadees will be performing Cohen's "Joan of Arc" as specially arranged by the event's co-organizer, Nikki

Olson. "We're hoping to broaden the horizons from the usual singer-songwriter approach," Solez says of the evening's entertainment.

Also attending will be Cohen's official biographer, Ira Nadel, who will be presenting a lecture on Cohen's life. "The current biography only goes up to 1994," says Solez. "Ira has a good ten years to tell us about."

Nadel and Solez are currently putting together a compilation of Cohen photos, to be published in 2006. A good number of these will be on display for the evening, including several rare shots—taken in Edmonton—that inspired Cohen's song "Sisters of Mercy."

"It was December of 1966, and Leonard Cohen was staying at the Macdonald hotel. He made friends with two young women, spent the night with them, and from that meeting came the song 'Sisters of Mercy.'

"We have for this event the only pictures that exist from this night," he continues. "It's exciting that people can finally see these two. Leonard Cohen says they were 'introducing the miniskirt to Canada in the middle of the winter,' but I suppose we can all see what they looked like, now, and speculate for ourselves."

And when Solez says "all," he means worldwide. "We're trying to make this a worldwide event where all the major cities in the world can celebrate Leonard Cohen's birth as an expression of Canadian culture."

Move over, Robbie Burns; Leonard Cohen's comin' to town.

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Cranberry juice

Ice

Lemon slice (or other delicious exotic fruit)

#### Directions:

Fill glass with ice. Pour in tequila,

squeeze lemon slice and add to

glass. Top with cranberry juice.

Turn on your favourite Cohen

album and enjoy.



DAVID BOWSWELL (FROM [WWW.BEERFLEMING.COM](http://WWW.BEERFLEMING.COM))





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Still interested? I'm glad. Here's how you can get involved:

Come to our **Volunteer Recruitment Meeting on Friday, 17 September at 5pm in the Alumni Room in SUB** (the glass-walled room right across from the food court). There, you can meet the section editors and other **Gateway** volunteers, ask them questions, pick their brains, and maybe even make a friend or two in the process.

Hey, I know the climb looks daunting. But I can guarantee you you won't regret the ascent once you see the view from the top.

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# D is for dictionary

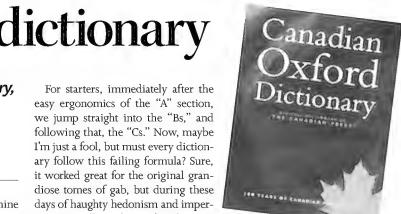
## *Canadian Oxford Dictionary, Second Edition*

Edited by Katherine Barber  
Oxford University Press

DAVID "ALPHABITS" BERRY  
Opinion Editor

Well, once again, the phrase-maching over in Oxford has decided to subject us to another "informative" collection of Canadian words and phrases, this time in the form of the Canadian Oxford Dictionary. And, as the boring, uninspired title suggests, this is just one more trip down an already-driven road, brought to us by people who can't do anything but rework old ideas.

Now, to be fair, it starts off well enough. Aardvarks, alliteration, amnesty—it's riveting stuff, and more than enough to get the reader actively involved in the alphabet. But it's not long after this first chapter that a bevy of blunders bulls its way into the scene, and turns what was a rather compelling cavalcade into a down-right dreadful dictionary.



For starters, immediately after the easy ergonomics of the "A" section, we jump straight into the "Bs," and following that, the "Cs." Now, maybe I'm just a fool, but must every dictionary follow this failing formula? Sure, it worked great for the original grandiose tones of gab, but during these days of haughty hedonism and imperious intellectuals, we've become increasingly lured to the linguistic joke that is "alphabetical order," and we demand something that breaks from the kakukshtrof of kitsch into something special.

Sadly, of course, this dictionary just doesn't do the trick. As the letters keep piling up, and the same old words just keep appearing (how many more times are we going to be forced to read leaden, modern and nuance in a dictionary, damn it?) one can't help but feel oddly ostracized by a group of pundits that clearly cannot prognosticate what the public wants and respects: what is an adequately curious quest at quality by radically ridiculous catalogues of ideas and then slapping them together in a slovenly, sickening manner.

## S IS FOR SERIOUSLY

Sarcastic review aside, the Canadian Oxford Dictionary is quite the little workbook. The First Edition sold over 100,000 copies in its first year alone, and it's the official dictionary of the Canadian Press the *Globe and Mail*, and the *Toronto Star*.

One of the reasons it's so popular is because it's just so damn Canadian, from including entries on all our Prime Ministers and Governors General,

to over 850 biographies of notable Canadians such as Mike Myers and former Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick/father of Confederation, Edward Baron Chandler. And, of course, it's got uniquely Canadian word usages—over 2200 of them, in fact. Here's a sampling of some of the more interesting new inclusions:

**Calgary red-eye**—a drink made of

beer and tomato juice.

**Molson muscle**—slang for "beer belly."

**steamie**—a Québécois word for a "hot dog."

**bangbelly**—a Newfoundland cake made from rice, pork and molasses.

**bunny hug**—a Saskatchewan term for a hooded sweatshirt.

**come-from-away**—Atlantic Canadian term for a visitor.

### The Canadian Oxford

Dictionary is truly terrible, and ultimately only the most utterly unaware among us will welcome this weak addition to an already exhausted genre. Xylophone, xenophobe, xenon. Yes, if you're yearning for something new, or for that matter exciting, you might as well just pass this restless zenith of non-thought right by and try something that breaks all the rules, like, for instance, *El Diccionario de Español de la Institución de Lengua de Madrid*. Come on, a dictionary that throws in accents, the letter "ñ" and an entirely different grammatical structure? Now that's a dictionary, and it deserves a lot more attention than this paint-by-numbers piece of garbage.

## Cinematic couples' therapy

Australian thriller *Alexandra's Project* teaches a lesson in good communication

### *Alexandra's Project*

Directed by Rolf Wider  
Starring Gary Sweet and Helen Buday  
Metro Cinema  
September 17–20 at 9pm

ADAM GAUMONT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

*Alexandra's Project* is the sort of film every couple should see. It won't make your hearts-and-flowers-filled romantic evening, but this Australian-made psychological thriller is about a theme necessary for any relationship: the importance of communication.

The story begins happily enough. For Steve (Gary Sweet) life is grand: he has two kids, a good home, a good job, and a subservient (though unbeknownst to him, unhappy) wife. Only vaguely aware of the depth to which the roots of his marital troubles reach, he returns home from the office one day—his birthday—in fine spirits, hot off the heels of a promotion. But when he returns home to find the house dark, abandoned, and ransacked. Only a chair, a TV, a VCR, and a VHS tape labeled for him remains.

Still expecting a pleasant birthday surprise, his mood sober as the tape plays on. Attempting to understand the increasingly strange situation, he searches the house for any clue of what's happened. Tense moments abound when Steve explores his newly deserted house, with the viewer kept in suspense along with him. He soon finds the doors have new locks, the phone lines have been cut, and there is no way out. A prisoner in his own

home, Steve is left with no choice but to continue the tape, forced to watch in horror as his marriage, his family, and his life all unfold in front of his eyes.

The effectiveness of the film lies in its simplicity: it consists mainly of Steve sitting in his darkened, abandoned living room, watching helplessly as his wife confronts him on a scratchy home video. The presentation and premise are unique, combining psychological tension with self-loathing epiphany.

Besides of the intimate simplicity of the film's presentation (the audience is made to endure Alexandra's "project" just as Steve is) one can't help but empathize with Steve even though the story makes it obvious that he's a flawed, emotionally abusive man. But while one can empathize with Steve, the film also clearly and sympathetically articulates the tormented psychology of an unhappy housewife.

Alexandra's Project goes well beyond the superficial territory of gender roles and marital bickering, and takes things through an intense emotional roller-coaster ride of bitterness and deceit. It is dark, it has no true winners, and it deals with sensitive topics such as marriage, sex, emotional alienation, and lack of communication. The premise is both terrifying and outlandish, and yet manages to hit close to home for the average viewer because of the universality of its underlying theme: the importance of communication—a lesson every couple should bear in mind, lest they end up like Steve and Alexandra.

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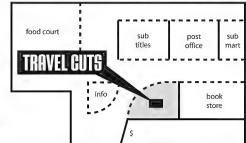
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**DAVID BRIGGS**  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you dig being shocked and confused, set out the welcome mat for Otep's *House of Secrets*.

With ringing choruses of "I hate my life" and other such angst-driven lyrics, *House of Secrets* could disturb even the most nihilistic listener.

Otep unleashed their special brand of generic nu-metal in 2002 with LP *Sevas Tra*; it was enough to get the band to that year's Ozfest. *House of Secrets* continues the band's aggressive hard-grinding riffs and vocal

growls, so fans won't be disappointed. However, the sound is far from new, and many of those riffs and growls could have been collected 20 years ago from the floor of Cannibal Corpse's mixing room.

If Otep's sound wasn't tired enough, it's made worse on *House of Secrets* with the inclusion of brief scenes of violence as filler between songs (the album opens with a woman being beaten and screaming in horror). At best, it's reminiscent of a bad horror movie soundtrack. If that's your thing, Rob Zombie's *House of 1000 Corpses* soundtrack would be a finer substitute.

**TONY SANTIN**  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Thanks to the recent crop of new-wave bands, anyone who listens to *Midnight Movies'* self-titled CD will think they have a good idea of where the album's going. *Midnight Movies* could definitely fall in with bands like the Organ, Interpol and even Metric.

But after a few tracks one finds there's more going on in this record than meets the ear.

Vocalist/drummer Gena Olivier delivers borderline gothic lyrics with a voice that is eerily reminiscent of

Stereolab's Laetitia Sadier. While there is an abundance of retro-synth driven, grim-sounding atmospheres—the hallmarks of groups like Joy Division and their multiple new-wave imitators—*Midnight Movies* gives this sound a much rockier edge. Instead of opting only for a wall of sound and sweeping harmonies, *Midnight Movies* isn't afraid to throw some distortion into the mix.

Overall, while this record itself may not stray too far from the genre's standard, it still manages to give some life to an otherwise increasingly predictable sound.



**The F-Ups**  
*The F-Ups*  
Capitol  
[www.thef-ups.com](http://www.thef-ups.com)

**KRISTINE OWRAM**  
Managing Editor

I must admit that I first thought this CD would be amusing in an ironic, "Ha ha, these guys are so lame!" kind of way. Any band called The F-Ups must be described as "18 and right out of 'high school'" in their press release must, by definition.

I was wrong.

Let me clarify: if the F-Ups' self-titled debut had been released when I was in grade ten, I would have absolutely loved it. They sound almost exactly like all the other crappy pop punk I listened to back then: The Vandals, Screeching Weasel, The Bouncing Souls, Less Than Jake, and ... well, you get the point.

Six years later, it's still catchy, but I wouldn't spend money on it. The sound is a little uniform for my taste (as most pop punk is), and the issues dealt with are a tad juvenile. For example, "Look At Your Son Now" deals with the age-old problem of showing your dad just how much you weren't listening when he told you not to drink, do drugs, or have sex. And "I Don't Know" is all about people pressuring you to figure out what you want to do with your life when all you want to do is rock, "man."

Ultimately, I wouldn't recommend it. But hey, if you have a young sibling going through a pseudo-rebellious stage just like I did, this could be the perfect 16th birthday present.

## Correction!

On page 11 of the 14 September issue of the *Gateway*, Jeffrey Greenlaus was mistakenly credited for snapping a red-carpet shot of Dave Thomas and his comely ladyfriend.

Sorry Jeff.  
And sorry Phil.

You see, it was actually, *Gateway* photographer Phil Head who landed that fine photo of a celebrity in his natural habitat.

Now get back to chasing Tom Cruise's SUVs; photos: how else are we going to scoop *US Weekly*?



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## Victoria's Frog Eyes look down on rock snobbery

Avant-garde band releases new CD; just don't call it "smart rock"

### Frog Eyes

with Cryptopy  
Starlite Room  
Friday, 17 September at 8pm

JAMES STORIE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

For those who've heard Victoria, BC's Frog Eyes' sprawling, cerebral lyrics, it comes as no surprise that songwriter and lead vocalist Carey Mercer has the intellect to match. But Mercer doesn't really want to talk "smart."

"I'm getting worried that when I do interviews I've talked a little too much," he chuckles. "I don't mean for the listener to need to read Homer before they can understand Frog Eyes."

But there's nothing difficult to understand about a Frog Eyes show. Mercer's become known for his sweeping, grandiose performances and Edmonton audiences have been anticipating another chance to see Frog Eyes since the band played the Powerplant with Destroyer last spring.

And Friday's show promises to top Frog Eyes' last Edmonton stop. This time around, the band's touring in support of their new album—just released this week—called *The Folded Palm*. "It's the same band but... more rockin'," Mercer explains. "There's a kind of triumphant rock energy to it—more pummeling, suffocating. The listener isn't given a chance to read through it."

And given Mercer's commanding stage presence, you have to believe him; watching him work on stage the last time he was in town, you got the feeling he could inject triumphant rock energy into a Pretzel necklace.

And that's that kind of energy that no doubt produced *The Folded Palm*. The record has been the focus of quite a bit of hard work. The band somehow squeezed enough hours into the small pocket of free time they've had since the spring 2004

release of their acoustic album, *Ego Scriptor*, to develop *The Folded Palm*. But the effort was well worth it, reflects Mercer; the result is a smarter, more advanced rock.

"We had a lot more time with this album since we had a lot more money. I was able to just hole up and focus on it. I don't know if that's detrimental to my writing. I haven't really made up my mind to what's better: having no time and being given only the chance to take your initial impulses, or having the time to go back and rethink," he says.

"I think the lyrics on *The Folded Palm* are, well, better," Mercer says with a chuckle. "I think that there's more force to them; they're more dense. They definitely offer more chance for penetration to the listener."

And sonically speaking, the album breaks new ground. Unlike previous Frog Eyes records, *The Folded Palm*, explains Mercer, is definitely a studio record. "Feeling it live doesn't really do it justice, and wouldn't even if we had total fidelity to the studio arrangements when we play it on stage."

But while Frog Eyes is graduating to more and more advanced levels, Mercer is careful not to lump his band into any elitist "smart rock" category.

"I don't want to sound like I'm too critical of the avant-garde, but it's almost become its own sort of orthodoxy where you just come out from your dimly-lit collective art space and bang on your cello for half an hour."

"I'm not trying to work some sort of mission statement like, 'I will enlighten the world of rock from its ignorant murk.'

"Music should really be antithetical to these intellectual judgments, all these questions of genre. It may ultimately be impossible to reach these goals of purity, but it is still something we should strive for."

down, delta-style blues ballads, or when leading her band through swinging' New Orleans-style jams.

Listeners are reminded of classic singers such as Etta James and Koko Taylor, though on a somewhat more toned-down scale.

Magness' singing lies somewhere in the upper-middle range of the female blues-singer gamut: more powerful and raw than someone like Bonnie Raitt, but not quite at the level of a screamer like Susan Tedeschi.

The guitar-playing of Colin Linden (the album's producer) is prominent throughout, and along with a first-class backup band provides excellent support for Magness' vocals.

Memorable tracks include "The Soul of a Man," "A Woman Knows," and "Eat the Lunch You Brought," though the album is refreshingly complete.

Perhaps lacking any single track that explores the upper ranges of intensity and emotion that can be brought out by good old-fashioned blues, it is nonetheless a solid, straightforward album that pushes all the right buttons and is not to be missed by any blues fan.



**Janiva Magness**  
*Buy Him at the Crossroads*  
Northern Blues Music  
[www.janivamagness.com](http://www.janivamagness.com)

ADAM GAUMONT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

*Buy Him at the Crossroads*, the major-label debut of sultry Los Angeles-based blues singer Janiva Magness, positively burns from start to finish.

Magness' fiery vocals are solid throughout the album, whether standing alone on stripped

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Thirty scholarships valued at \$2000 each will be awarded to students attending the University of Alberta full-time based on demonstrated excellence in athletics or fine arts and superior academic achievement. These scholarships are available to students entering any undergraduate degree program at the University of Alberta from high school, students transferring from other post secondary institutions, and students returning to the University of Alberta after completing at least one year.

Recipients are selected in the fall by nomination by Athletics and by the Departments of Art and Design, Drama, and Music. No application is required.

Note: In the area of athletics, preference is given to CIS athletes. FISU and non CIS athletes competing at the national or international levels who wish to be considered should identify themselves to the Office of the Athletic Director, P220 VanVliet Centre, U of A Butterdome, phone (780) 492-3413, prior to October 1.

For additional information on University of Alberta scholarships please visit our website [www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SCHOLARSHIPS,  
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# Political Starr stars in APIRG music festival

**Kinnie Starr**

with iHuman, Julia Boucher and Eshod Ibn Wyza  
Starlite Room  
Thursday, 16 September at 8pm

**LENORE TURNER**  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Vancouver artist Kinnie Starr has never shied away from being overtly political. Her music—which is difficult to peg categorically, as her sound often ranges from hip hop to pop, folk to R&B, dub to soul—often incorporates topics of gender and race politics. So it seems a perfect fit that Starr is playing this Thursday's APIRGapalooza, the Alberta Public Interest Research Group's (APIRG) music festival celebrating student activism and social change. Starr will be headlining the APIRGapalooza show and on Friday, 17 September she will be giving a talk on "overcoming struggle through art."

Thought Starr often plays live shows in the company of her longtime bandmates John Rahami, Chris Carlson, and Rob Chursoff (and even frequently with the help of friends and family), Starr's upcoming show will showcase her as a

solo performer and will no doubt bring the love, honesty, and political courage that underlies all of her work.

While Starr continues to maintain the political streak heard on her past albums *Tidy* (1996), *Mending* (1998), and *Time Up* (2000), she mentions that lately her focus has been changing. The production of her most recent album, *Sure Again*, she says, focused more on arrangements, melody, and production, than political messages.

**"The world is my influence. It's the little things—you know? It's the tiny details."**

**KINNIE STARR,  
PIRGAPALOOZA HEADLINER**

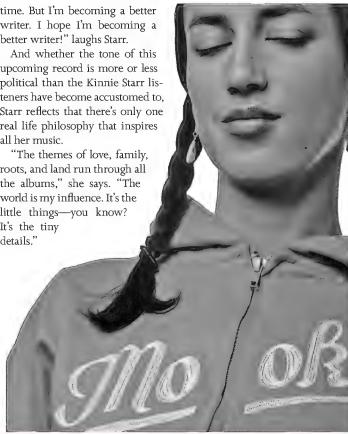
And Starr's back in the studio again these days completing a new album (she plans on a spring release and accompanying tour). Whether it's similar to her previous work, Starr finds hard to say.

"It's hard to have perspective on it now, because I am in the studio all the

time. But I'm becoming a better writer. I hope I'm becoming a better writer!" laughs Starr.

And whether the tone of this upcoming record is more or less political than the Kinnie Starr listeners have become accustomed to, Starr reflects that there's only one real life philosophy that inspires all her music.

"The themes of love, family, roots, and land run through all the albums," she says. "The world is my influence. It's the little things—you know? It's the tiny details."



## Grow Your Career

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To find out more about the many opportunities waiting for you at the ExxonMobil companies in Canada, come see us at our Information Session.

**Dinwoody Lounge - 2-100 Students Union Building - Room 4-02  
Tuesday, September 21, 2004, 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

If you're about to graduate with a degree in Engineering, Earth Science, Business, Management Information Systems, Computer Science, or a related discipline and want a career that will grow and evolve, consider an ExxonMobil company in Canada. It's the best place to find a rewarding career while also finding yourself.

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## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

**Behind the Scenes  
With the Cats**

Valley Zoo  
Thursday, 16 September  
at 6:30pm

Think the zoo is only a good place to visit when you're five? Think again!

Most people are oblivious to the plethora of programs that the Valley Zoo organizes for their post-pubescent patrons. This Thursday, the zoo is inviting you to learn more about the habits of their felins. Taking a closer look at tigers and leopards, this one-and-a-half hour event features an informative talk by the animals' keepers, followed by a behind-the-scenes feeling.

Not a cat person? Check out the zoo website (<http://www.buildingthevalleyzoo.com>) for upcoming events like Painting with Elephants and Introduction to Falconry.

## Get Down-Town to the Hoedown

Alex Taylor School  
Saturday, 18 September at 3pm  
Naturally, you have a hot date lined up for Saturday night. Desperate to ace that first impression, you're trying to think of a place to go where you can eat well and show off some patented dance moves.

Well, you're in luck, kids, because the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC) is putting on an old-timey hoedown, complete with a chili cook-off and swingin' country music. Lasting all Saturday afternoon, the event serves as a fundraiser to support the efforts of the WEAC, which currently provides 66 beds and housing support services for homeless women requiring shelter, food, and program referrals.

Impress your date with your dancing and humanitarianism!

## Goldie

With MC Armanni Reign  
The Standard  
Thursday, 16 September  
at 9pm

Not Goldie Hawn, sillies! We're talking about the Goldie who broke out into the rave scene in 1991 and since then has become an international phenomenon renowned for break-beat and hip-hop music. His album *Timeless*, first released in 1995, was once hailed as the alpha and omega of the underground dance world, but tough competition from the likes of Phatex and Squarepusher have really pushed Goldie to have to defend his title.

This Thursday, the mix master joins MC Armanni Reign in a night of lasers, smoke, and hypnotizing fun.

ASIA SZKUDLA LAREK  
Sociable

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## CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad please go to [www.campusclassifieds.ca](http://www.campusclassifieds.ca)

### FOR RENT

Basement ste. \$450+util. 9648 83 Ave. Ph 455-3799. Room for rent. \$575. 9648 83 Ave. Phone: 455-3799. Parking spot avail. Outdoor, no power, ten min walk (hops & 81 ave). \$55/mo. Call Mike 438-4134.

### WANTED

Used snowboard 145cmx155cm, if possible fireide with bindings. Phone: 554-4753.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASL Sign Language Course: Level One, begins 21 September for twelve weeks: Tuesdays, 6:30pm to 9:30pm. Contact Specialized Support and Disability Services, U of A, 492-3381; 2-800-SUB for more information.

**JAPANESE DRUMMING BEGINNER WORKSHOPS** - Serious, challenging, rhythmic fun for fun or potential membership with Kita No Taiko. Sun, 3 October (day); Mon, 4 or 18 Oct (eve); Wed, 13 Oct (eve) \$40. Minimum age 14. Ph 431-0300; [knt@ecn.ab.ca](mailto:knt@ecn.ab.ca); [www.ecn.ab.ca/](http://www.ecn.ab.ca/)

### EMPLOYMENT - PART TIME

Child Care Workers required by non-profit school age child care program. Located in three schools in southwest Edmonton. Various shifts available between 7am and 6pm (ie. 7am to 9am or 3pm to 6pm). Phone Dorothy at 435-4532.

Program Coordinators required by non-profit school age child care program. Located in southwest Edmonton. Ideal hours would be 2pm to 30/6pm daily. Responsibilities include planning and implementing experiences for 9 to 12-year-olds. More or less time is possible. Phone Dorothy at 435-4532.

Part-time work Great pay, flex schedule, sales/service, cond's apply North: 497-7701 South: 439-3366

Big Brothers Something BIG! Big Brother/Big Sister: Spend a few hours a week doing fun things with a child/youth. In-School Mentor: Read with a child for one hour a week in a school close to UofA or where you live. TEAM: Have fun doing weekly group activities. Call Big Brothers Big Sisters today at 424-8181 or apply online at [www.bbbsedmonton.org](http://www.bbbsedmonton.org).

A Cappella Catering hiring full and part time Servers. Valid drivers license required. Apply by 16 to 454-2748 or to [kim@acappella.ab.ca](mailto:kim@acappella.ab.ca).

Restaurant VALET drivers. Must be able to drive auto and standard. Valid class 5 license. Nightly wages + TIPS. Send resume to [cadrevalet@shaw.ca](mailto:cadrevalet@shaw.ca).

Perfect for 1st or 2nd year BED students! Quick bus pass to U of A Six to 12-year-old child or one who is somewhat/athletic student to work shift work train. To 9:30pm and/or 3pm to 5:45pm). Start @ \$750/mth, call Roxanne @ 434-7754.

Les Saisons Lingerie in West Edmonton Mall is looking for an energetic, hardworking and friendly university student to work evenings and Sundays. If this sounds like you, call Nicole @ 444-4992 or drop off a resume.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Piano Teachers req'd for inner city school children. Exp not req'd Orientation Thurs, 16 Sept or Wed, 22 Sept in CAB 831 at 8pm. Bring driver's license. Alta healthcare card.

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Join the **UofA MicroStore tech show**

**Friday, Sept 17  
10am 'til 3pm**

**benQ**  
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\* see in store for complete details, rules and regulations

## WANTED

### Students Needed for Advocacy Consultation Meeting

The Students' Union advocacy department wants to know what's important to you! We want your input on our approach to government funding, quality of education, and tuition. Please come out and tell us what we can do to better represent your interests.

For more information please contact [advocacy@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:advocacy@su.ualberta.ca)

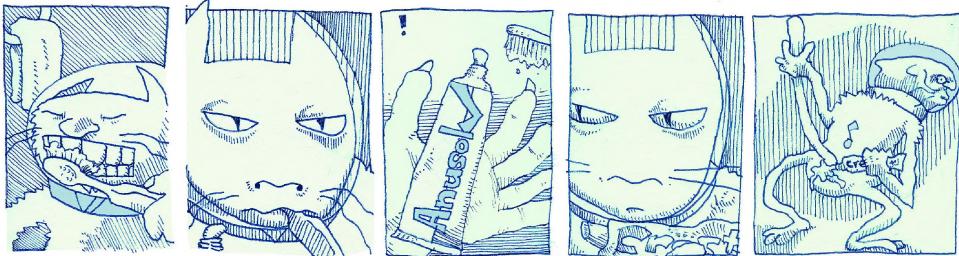
September 20th, 3pm  
Room 420 SUB (4th Floor)

If you can't make it on September 20th look for other opportunities in upcoming months.

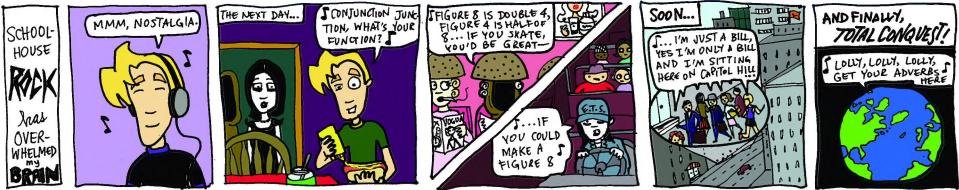


[www.su.ualberta.ca](http://www.su.ualberta.ca)

SPACE CAT by Fish Grivkowsky



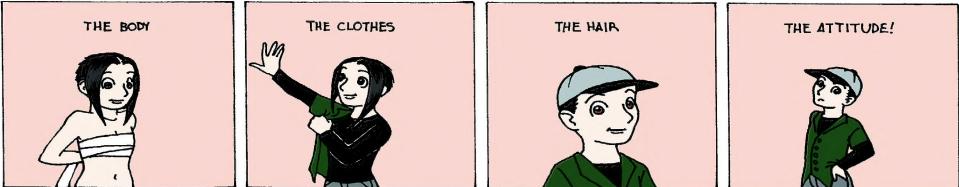
BLACKOUT by Chris Krause and Jen Koskela



RANCID WIT by Dave Lerner



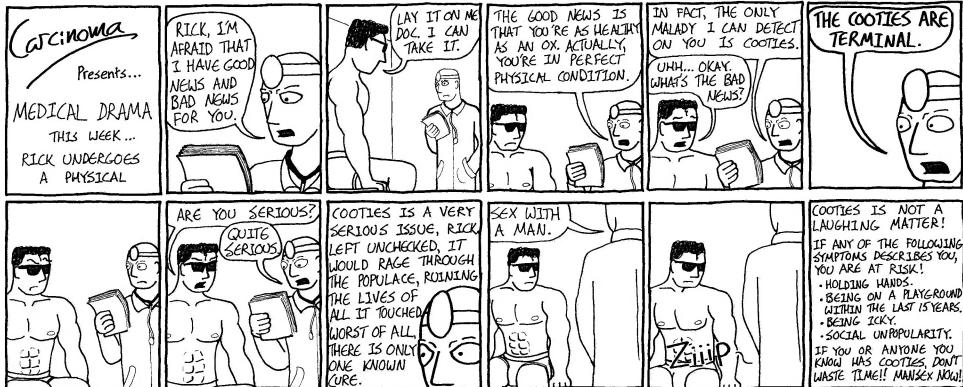
ANNA by Megan Simko



POLAR AND BROOKLYN by Alex Labarda



## CARCINOMA by Lloyd Majeau



## PRIMATOLOGY by Tony Esteves and Steve Waldman



## COMPUTER BLUES by Kevin Ng



## LABORATORY PURGATORY by Phil and Connie Head



## A GATEWAY COMIC CON AD by Dan Kaszor

**THE GATEWAY  
COMIC CON**  
SATURDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER

E-MAIL: OPINION@GATEWAY.UALBERTA.CA  
FOR MORE INFO

WELL TRUE BELIEVERS, STAN "THE MAN" LEE HERE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE GATEWAY COMIC CON! SEVERAL EXPERIENCED COMIC STRIP ARTISTS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE (INCLUDING WORKSHOPS BY STEVE NOTLEY, FISH GRIWKOWSKY AND TONY ESTEVES).

IF YOU EVER THOUGHT OF DRAWING A COMIC OR IF YOU JUST WANT A FEW TIPS ON CLEANING UP YOUR STYLE COME TO THIS CAVALCADE OF COMIC COGNIZANCE.





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